E/1998/37

United Nations

Executive Board of the World Food Programme

Report on the first, second, resumed second and third regular sessions and annual session of 1997

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 1998
Supplement No. 17

E/1998/37

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United Nations • New York, 1998

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Programme
Alimentaire
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World
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Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

Executive Board
Annual Session

Rome, 18 - 21 May 1998

ANNUAL REPORTS

Agenda item 3

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO ECOSOC AND THE FAO COUNCIL ON ITS ACTIVITIES IN 1997

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. As in 1996, the format of the present report responds to the efforts of the United Nations Programmes to adopt a common format for reporting to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and takes into account the Executive Board's decision of keeping documentation concise and decision-oriented, and the Board's call for complementarity and avoidance of duplication.

2. The report further takes into account provisions concerning the control and limitation of documentation, and equal treatment of the official languages of the Organization contained in General Assembly resolution 52/214, in particular paragraph 7, which invites all intergovernmental bodies to consider, where appropriate, the possibility of reducing the length of their reports.

3. Issues related to follow-up to General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions are included in the Executive Director's Annual Report. Since the Annual Report of the Executive Director, once approved by the Board, is also transmitted to ECOSOC and the FAO Council (and in order to avoid duplication), the present report concentrates exclusively on the activities of the Executive Board.

4. The present report is to be considered under provisional agenda item 3 c) of the ECOSOC substantive session of 1998: "Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation." The report will also be considered at the Hundred and Fifteenth Session of the FAO Council under provisional agenda item "World Food Programme: the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board."

BACKGROUND

5. In 1997, the 36 members of the Board, elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the FAO Council, were:

   Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mauritania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States of America.

6. In accordance with the rules of procedure and methods of work adopted by it in 1996, the Executive Board elected a Bureau of five members, chosen from among the country representatives on the Board, one from each WFP electoral list A to E: France (list D) as President; India (list B) as Vice-President, and the representatives of El Salvador, (list C); of Hungary (list E); and of Mauritania (list A).

7. In 1997, the Board held four sessions—one Annual and three Regular Sessions. Each was preceded by an open-ended informal meeting to brief all members and observers on those agenda items that required policy guidance and/or decision-making.

8. In keeping with the established methods of work, the Board appointed a Rapporteur for each session. At the end of each session, a paper containing all decisions and recommendations was verified by the members of the Board. A brief summary of the discussion was also prepared by the Rapporteur, and endorsed by the Board at its

first subsequent session. These documents are being forwarded to ECOSOC and to the FAO Council as attachments to this report.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations

9. During 1996 and 1997, the General Regulations of WFP were subjected to extensive and detailed examination by an open-ended working group established by the Executive Board. The purpose of the review was threefold: to bring the General Regulations into line with the most recent decisions of the United Nations and FAO (in particular General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/8 of 1 November 1995), to remove clearly outdated or superseded provisions and to update the General Regulations in order to reflect the decisions of the Executive Board, and the responsibilities and functions which WFP is called upon to discharge.

10. The Open-Ended Working Group conducted its business in close dialogue with the Secretariat and relied on the assistance of the FAO-WFP Legal Counsel. It also benefited from the advice and comments of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, through the FAO-WFP Legal Counsel.

11. At its Second Regular Session of 1997, the Board considered the report of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations, and the text of the proposed WFP General Regulations and Rules. The Board decided by consensus:

- to request the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the FAO Council to endorse the proposed General Regulations and recommend them for approval by the General Assembly and the FAO Conference; and
- to approve the proposed General Rules on a provisional basis, subject to the final approval of the proposed General Regulations by both the General Assembly of the United Nations and the FAO Conference. The General Rules could be applied provisionally from that date and confirmed by the Board at its first session thereafter.

12. Later in the year, at its Third Regular Session, the Board considered the Report of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Revision of WFP's Financial Regulations, and the text of the proposed Financial Regulations. It commended the efforts of the Chairman and the Working Group, and approved the proposed Financial Regulations provisionally, effective 1 January 1998. The Board decided that the Financial Regulations would be reconfirmed once the General Regulations were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Conference.

13. The proposed WFP General Regulations were endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (Decision 1997/217 of 8 July 1997) and by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Twelfth Session, and adopted by the FAO Conference (Resolution 11/97 of 17 November 1997) and by the General Assembly (Decision 52/449 of 18 December 1997). They entered into force on 1 January 1998.

Appointment of WFP's External Auditor for the term July 1998 to June 2002

14. The Board decided to re-appoint the Cour des Comptes of France as the External Auditor of WFP for a second term covering the 1998-99 and 2000-2001 biennia. It also decided that the audit fee should not be increased, and if possible, reduced. The Board endorsed the Executive Director's recommendations that the appointment of the External Auditor will be based on competitive selection, the Bureau of the Board will establish procedures and criteria to be followed in future competitive selection and oversee the evaluation of proposals, and that the Board will decide by consensus or, failing that, by secret ballot. The Board also decided that the field of competitors for appointment should be widened and developing countries in particular should be encouraged to bid.

POLICY ISSUES

Annual Report of the Executive Director

15. The Board approved the Annual Report of the Executive Director for 1996 and noted the need to have a debate on the issue of the increase in directed contributions which was eroding the multilateral nature of the Programme.

16. The Board commended the new structure of the Report and highlighted some issues of particular significance:

- the increase of directed contributions;
- the need to maintain an adequate level of resources for development;
- the importance of inter-agency collaboration, especially at the field level, and the relationship with NGOs;
- the importance of targeting; and
- the usefulness of WFP's advocacy and communication efforts.

17. The Board encouraged the Programme to continue efforts to meet its objective of providing at least 90 percent of its development assistance to low-income, food-deficit countries and at least 50 percent to least developed countries.

18. The Board welcomed the Report's emphasis on the role of women in WFP-supported activities. The Programme was also commended for its ongoing reform and decentralization process, and for its efforts to increase financial accountability. It recommended that future annual reports incorporate the suggestions made in the course of the Board's discussions.

Other policy issues

19. During the year, the Board debated four important topics, on the basis of papers prepared by the Secretariat:

WFP support to countries in establishing and managing national food assistance programmes

20. The Board expressed its satisfaction with what was considered to be an appropriate follow-up to both the WFP Mission Statement and the World Food Summit Plan of

Action. It agreed with the proposed measures for providing support to national food assistance programmes, while noting the need for WFP to adopt a careful, demand-driven approach, taking into account the specific circumstances of individual countries.

21. The Board also noted that the advisory role and technical assistance of WFP were particularly important in the context of phasing-out strategies, and in facilitating local purchases and triangular transactions. WFP was encouraged to play an active role in facilitating regional exchange and promoting mutual learning from national experiences with food assistance programmes.

Policies on the use of WFP food aid in relief and development activities: monetization

22. Considering that much had changed since the governing body had last discussed the issue of monetization, the Board had requested that this issue be revisited during 1997. At its Annual Session, the Board endorsed the Secretariat's recommendation that monetization would be the exception rather than the rule in the future. The Board also decided that:

- In accordance with the Resource and Long-term Financing policies, open-market monetization to cover support costs of a directly distributed WFP food intervention should, normally, no longer be necessary. However, where some donors do not have the flexibility to provide sufficient or timely cash resources for this purpose, and in the absence of any alternative funding, some monetization may still need to be undertaken.
- The open-market sale of food commodities to finance the purchase of locally produced food for direct distribution to beneficiaries should be managed in the same way as open-market sales for other purposes and must be demonstrably cost-effective. The initial commodities sale must not disrupt the normal markets of recipient countries.
- WFP would monetize on behalf of donors as a bilateral service as long as the intervention is consistent with WFP's ongoing programmes and its Mission Statement, and does not distort local markets, cause import displacements or price disincentives, nor infringe FAO Principles on Surplus Disposal.

23. The Board decided that Country Strategy Outlines should demonstrate the rationale for monetization and its operational modalities, in all cases where monetization is likely to feature in a Country Programme; that WFP would not undertake projects involving full open-market monetization to fund activities that were not related to direct food assistance, and where the generation of funds was the primary objective; and that in line with past practice, WFP should continue to use closed-circuit monetization, where it was considered the most appropriate modality. Commodity exchange arrangements were to be considered a distinct category and would not be regarded as monetization.

24. The Board further decided that in emergency operations, WFP would consider monetization where it was clearly demonstrable that the monetization process itself had benefits over and above the income transfer to the beneficiaries, and where the generation of funds was not the primary objective of commodity sales.

Measures to enhance WFP's programming in the poorest countries

25. The Board welcomed the analysis of obstacles to increased programme concentration in the poorest countries and stressed that food aid was likely to be most effective in situations where recipient countries promoted food security objectives. WFP's commitment in building national capacity to effectively implement food assistance programmes was strongly supported. A more thorough analysis of expected counterpart inputs and costs would contribute to a better examination of capacity requirements and assist in the identification of suitable partners.

26. The Board decided that WFP should selectively apply the following strategies in least developed countries (LDCs), based on appropriate supporting analyses in future Country Programmes and subject to prior approval by the Board: a) invest in the capacity of LDCs to utilize food assistance programmes effectively; b) make more use of food-fund facilities and experimental projects; c) support the maintenance and upkeep of basic public services and infrastructure through food assistance in situations where such interventions are crucial for addressing the problems of the poor and vulnerable; and d) work closely with other United Nations organizations, bilateral donors and NGOs to strengthen WFP's programming in development and make the best use of food aid in LDCs.

Reaching mothers and children at critical times of their lives

27. The Board welcomed this paper which, in accordance with WFP's Mission Statement, argued that adequate nutrition is of particular importance for young children, and expectant and nursing mothers. The Board underlined the importance of working in partnership with other United Nations organizations, bilateral donors and NGOs; and the need to identify suitable exit strategies, based on indicators such as mortality rates, economic growth rates and regular assessments of the national capacity to gradually assume a higher share of financial and other support for the feeding programme. The Board also advised that supplementary feeding interventions should be complemented by measures that increase overall household food security to the extent possible.

28. On the basis of the policy and operational principles set out in the above-mentioned document, the Board requested the Secretariat to develop operational guidelines which take into account such key issues as the optimum use of fortified foods, the local production of appropriate blended foods where feasible, measures to encourage breast-feeding, arrangements for measuring the effectiveness of the supplementary feeding component, and feedback mechanisms that ensure learning from WFP's experience.

Further reform and revitalization measures in WFP

29. At its Annual Session, the Board considered a document on Reform and revitalization measures in the World Food Programme. It expressed its satisfaction for the extensive reforms and improvements that had been introduced, and urged that such efforts continue. It noted in particular the negotiation of a revised Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR; the work in progress on a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF; WFP's participation in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, and the decentralization of staff and delegation of authority. The Board expressed interest in subsequently receiving an assessment of the impact of decentralization upon operational effectiveness.

EVALUATION REPORTS

30. In line with WFP's overall strategic priorities, work undertaken by the Office of Evaluation (OEDE) over the period under review reflected a shift in focus from evaluation of development projects to relief operations and to thematic studies of development and relief interventions. These evaluations have been organised in close cooperation with WFP country offices and government authorities, and conducted jointly and/or in collaboration with other United Nations organizations and NGOs.

31. The Board took note of and commented extensively on nine evaluation reports of which four dealt with emergency or protracted relief operations, two with development interventions, and three with thematic studies. Furthermore, it noted the recommendations of these evaluations and endorsed the Secretariat's plan to continue integrating the lessons learned into WFP's strategies and operations.

32. In particular, the Board noted that the following positive trends transpired from the evaluation reports: a) greater emphasis was given to a people-centred approach and to enhanced community participation, while still ensuring basic standards of technical soundness; b) significant progress had been made in ensuring more focused attention to gender issues in WFP-supported activities; and c) the percentage of women as direct food aid beneficiaries had increased considerably, together with women's participation in food management and planning.

33. Some lessons learned from the evaluations undertaken during 1997 were: food aid is particularly important and preferable to cash when food is unavailable (for instance in case of market failure); it is effective in tackling specific nutritional and micronutrient deficiencies and in those cases in which intrahousehold distribution is unequal.

34. Food aid has proven to be a useful incentive to undertake natural resource management projects, particularly when beneficiaries participate in identifying, planning and executing project activities. This has clearly increased their readiness both to adopt the necessary measures and implement the works themselves, thus greatly enhancing the sustainability of the whole programme.

35. Clear formulation of objectives and adequate targeting, based on accurate assessment of national capacity and government commitment, as well as effective monitoring and impact assessment, facilitates the implementation of projects and programmes. Likewise, early identification of performance indicators permits monitoring and rigorous evaluation of programmes or projects. In order to build on improvements already achieved, monitoring and ongoing evaluation should incorporate critical qualitative indicators which help to better assess people's perception of the project and benefits acquired.

36. The Board further noted that planning and implementation of rehabilitation activities at an early stage of the relief operation in the host country of refugees as well as in their countries of origin enhanced the success and impact of the operation. To this end, a proper balance between food and non-food resources was needed at the earliest possible stage of the operation.

RESOURCE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

Strategic and Financial Plan

37. The Board endorsed the general orientation of the Strategic and Financial Plan, 1998-2001, noting that it presented WFP's strategic priorities in clear terms, and that it addressed appropriate issues. It confirmed its endorsement of the strategic priorities for a people-centred approach to programming food aid, while underlining the importance of issues such as: increasing the programming of WFP's development activities in least developed countries; negotiating cost-sharing arrangements with recipient countries and de-earmarking commitments in full consultation with recipient governments; and further elaborating, in concrete terms, collaboration with other United Nations agencies and partners.

38. The Board emphasized the need for further discussion on the multilateral character of WFP in the context of the forthcoming review of its Resource and Long-term Financing policies. It also noted that addressing the fundamental issues of hunger and poverty was a central theme of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, and that development was a critical aspect in the prevention and mitigation of emergencies.

39. The Board approved the preparation of a consolidated budget of approximately 2.6 billion dollars,[1] including appropriate Programme Support and Administrative (PSA) costs, for the period 1998–99.

40. The Board recommended that, in preparing the subsequent Strategic and Financial Plan, WFP incorporate those aspects commented upon by the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the FAO Finance Committee.

Budgetary performance report for 1996

41. In taking note of the Budgetary performance report for 1996, the Board, at its 1997 Annual session, recommended that a full budgetary performance report be prepared for all WFP activities every two years. This report should include detailed explanations on the PSA funding and expenditures in a format that would permit the Board to assess how the original proposals were implemented and the reasons for deviations from the original estimates, and explanations on shortcomings during the implementation phase of the operations.

42. The Board requested the Executive Director to present a paper on the use of interest income at a later session and reaffirmed the need for WFP to pursue full implementation by all donors of the principle of full recovery of indirect support costs, in accordance with the decision of the Fortieth Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) regarding Resource and Long-term Financing policies.

Pledging target (1999–2000)

43. At its Annual Session, the Board endorsed the Executive Director's proposal for a pledging target for 1999–2000 relating to development programmes and amounting to one billion dollars (2.1 million tons). It decided to recommend such a target to ECOSOC

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[1] All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars.

and the FAO Council for endorsement and subsequent presentation to the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Conference for approval.

44. Later in the year, in its resolution 52/203 (4 December 1997), the United Nations General Assembly authorized the governing bodies of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP to adopt a specific and achievable target for core resources for the period, taking into account the relationship between their programme arrangements and financial plans.

Progress report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations, 1992–93 and 1994–95

45. The Board took note of the Progress report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations and of the fact that the report had been sent to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and FAO Finance Committee for their comments. It commended the Secretariat for the clarity of the new presentation and the progress made.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

46. In 1997, nine Country Strategy Outlines (CSOs), of which five from the Africa Region and four from Latin America and the Caribbean Region, were submitted to the Executive Board for review and advice, bringing the number of CSOs considered by WFP's governing body to a total of 31. The Board also examined and approved the Country Programmes (CPs) for Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, India, Mauritania, Mozambique, Yemen and Zambia. A total of 12 CPs have thus been approved so far by the Executive Board.

47. During the year, the Board considered and approved a total of seven development projects at a cost to WFP of 98 million dollars to assist 1.3 million people. The Board also approved two budgetary increases to ongoing development projects for a total of 19.5 million dollars to assist 837,000 persons. It further considered and approved six protracted relief operations (PROs) at a cost of 206 million dollars, to deliver humanitarian assistance to 2.9 million displaced and war-affected persons. A total of 559,380 tons of food was committed, at an overall cost of 324 million dollars.

48. In addition, the Board was informed of five development projects and budget increases to ongoing development projects, and of seven PROs and three budget increases to PROs approved by the Executive Director during the period 1 July 1996 and 30 June 1997.

49. WFP's extensive experience in protracted or complex emergency situations has demonstrated that traditional relief responses are often inadequate in addressing the real needs of people who are trying to stabilize and secure their livelihoods in a conflict situation. The Board is of the opinion that development activities in support of a humanitarian effort can help prevent further deterioration in social and economic structures, and establish foundations for recovery and reconciliation.

50. Another consideration guiding the Board's deliberations when examining programmes and projects for approval has been the scarcity of resources for development activities. Following guidance by the Board and to ensure that only the most vulnerable populations within the poorest countries are targeted for WFP's assistance, the Programme's vulnerability mapping capacity has been strengthened and collaboration with other United Nations organizations such as FAO, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF strengthened.

Guidelines on the utilization of food aid as a tool for development within social sectors such as health and education have been elaborated to assist country offices to better design programmes, fitting within a common United Nations system framework for assistance.

51. Over the next two years monitoring and evaluation (M&E) work will continue in the same general direction, with certain additions and shifts in emphasis, as follows:

- enhanced capabilities at the field level, notably by establishing M&E posts in WFP's regional offices;
- work towards the adoption of standard performance indicators will continue, with emphasis on WFP's activities in the post-emergency recovery phase;
- emphasis will be placed on M&E at the programme rather than the project level; guidance will be provided through the Programme Design Manual currently under preparation;
- elaboration of additional sectoral guidelines, notably in the areas of mother and child health and food for work;
- incorporation of mechanisms for enhanced participatory monitoring and evaluation; and
- increased efforts to develop common monitoring methodologies and performance indicators within the United Nations system, as well as sharing of information and experience with bilateral donors and organizations and NGOs.

52. In 1997, WFP allocated 93 percent of its development assistance to low-income, food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) and over 50 percent of such assistance to least developed countries (LDCs), consistent with the directive given by the Executive Board.

Visit of WFP-assisted projects in China

53. As a follow-up to a donor visit to WFP-assisted development projects in China during 1996, the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP arranged an additional visit in 1997, with broader representation from the Executive Board. The purpose of the visit was to expose mission members to the magnitude and nature of poverty in China, and to show how China and WFP were cooperating to alleviate poverty and hunger through integrated agricultural projects. The mission included representatives of eight Member States and was accompanied by WFP staff. It began with a one-day workshop in Beijing, attended also by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and representatives of the three Rome-based United Nations organizations, and followed by field visits to the provinces of Qinghai and Gansu.

54. The mission found that food aid in China was well targeted to the poorest beneficiaries. Projects managed to combine economic and agricultural development with environmental improvement, particularly through massive and successful afforestation and fruit-tree planting. There was evidence that the benefits and the infrastructure were sustainable, that activities had a positive impact on the environment and could be replicable. It was positively noted that although education, health and gender issues were not specifically addressed in older projects, special efforts were being made to address these issues in newer projects. The important financial contribution of local administration bodies and government was identified as one important success factor of the projects. WFP and IFAD were encouraged to continue to implement projects jointly,

striving to enlarge their cooperation with FAO and with as many United Nations partners as possible.

55. In discussing this visit, the Board felt that this kind of mission was very useful and requested the Secretariat to include further visits in its programme of work for 1998, possibly to Africa and Latin America.

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Executive Board
First Regular Session

Rome, 21 - 23 January 1997

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1997

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23 January 1997
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Executive Board Bureau

President:	**Mr. Louis Dominici**	(France)
Vice-President:	**Mr. Atul Sinha**	(India)
Member:	**Ms. María Eulalia Jiménez**	(El Salvador)
Member:	**Ms. Mariann Kovács**	(Hungary)
Member:	**Mr. Melainine Moctar Neche**	(Mauritania)
Rapporteur:	**Ms. Maria Kadleciková**	(Slovakia)

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda

The Executive Board adopted the agenda as proposed (Annex I).

21 January 1997

Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board and appointment of the Rapporteur

In accordance with the rules of procedure and methods of work adopted by the Board in 1996, the Executive Board elected Ambassador Louis Dominici (France, list D) as President for a one-year term from the date of election.

The Board elected Mr. Atul Sinha (India, list B) as Vice-President. The representatives of Mauritania, Mr. Melainine Moctar Neche (list A); of El Salvador, Ms. María Eulalia Jiménez (list C); and of Hungary, Ms. Mariann Kovács (list E) were elected members of the Bureau, as representatives of the other three WFP electoral lists.

In keeping with the established methods of work, the Board appointed Ms. Maria Kadlecikovà (Slovakia) Rapporteur of the First Regular Session of 1997.

21 January 1997

1997/EB.1/1

Re-appointment of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme

Having considered the re-appointment of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme in accordance with paragraph 16(b) of the General Regulations of the Basic Documents of the World Food Programme, the Executive Board decided to recommend to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization that Ms. Catherine Bertini be re-appointed to serve a second term as Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

21 January 1997

1997/EB.1/2

Policy issues - Implications of the World Food Summit Plan of Action for WFP

The Board endorsed and made the following comments and recommendations on the document presented by the Secretariat (WFP/EB.1/97/3):

The Board decided that the outcome of the World Food Summit must be central to the work of WFP. In the course of a rich debate, the Board affirmed, among others, that WFP focus on the role of women in food security, food purchasing in developing countries and advocacy for the hungry poor were key issues; it also highlighted the importance of inter-agency coordination, within the United Nations system.

On the basis of the discussions held at the present session, the Board requested, for its Third Regular Session (October 1997), a systematic analysis of the objectives established in the Summit Plan of Action and how, within WFP's mandate, its programmes, projects and other activities can contribute to achieving these objectives.

21 January 1997

1997/EB.1/3

Resource and financial matters: Update of indirect cost rates

Although several delegations still had questions and concerns on the cost measurement study and the proposed update of indirect support cost rates, the Board endorsed the proposals of the Secretariat, as follows:

a) The indirect support cost rates, to be applied for the period 1 January 1997 to 31 December 1997, will be as follows:

Indirect Support Cost Rates for 1997

Programme Category	Rates *(percent)*
Development/Rehabilitation/Disaster Preparedness	13.9
Protracted Relief Operations	7.1
Emergency Operations	6.0
Special Operations	11.9
Bilateral Services	
Commodity Procurement	4.0
Transport	4.5
Commodity Procurement and Transport	4.3

b) Any other bilateral services that may be requested will continue to be provided on a full-cost recovery basis. Likewise, the indirect support cost rate for JPOs will remain at the United Nations system-wide standard rate of 12 percent.

c) The Board indicated that the 1997 cost study should continue the effort to assess and quantify the impact of multilateral contributions and the benefit of readiness as well as review the categorization of costs as direct and indirect. Furthermore, the Secretariat was encouraged to continue improving the process of conducting and presenting the results of the cost study. The Secretariat was requested to submit a comparative table of projected and actual operational as well as support cost expenditures for the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 at the Annual Session of the Board in May 1997. The Secretariat was further requested to submit the proposed rate for 1998 at the Third Regular Session of the Board in 1997 and to adjust the scheduling of the cost study, improve the quality of the work measurement survey, as well as review the methodology to ensure that it is appropriate and corresponds to the needs of WFP.

d) Furthermore, the Board recommended that, for future sessions, information briefings on financial matters be organized well in advance to ensure an efficient participation of the delegates in the deliberations of the Board.

22 January 1997

1997/EB.1/4 Country Programme - India

The Board approved the Country Programme for India (WFP/EB.1/97/5/Add.1), endorsing the technical soundness of the document, but expressing concern about the level of resources that might be available through WFP. The Board took note of the preparation of a United Nations System Position Statement, equivalent to a Country Strategy Note (CSN), and invited the country office and the Government to vigilantly monitor priority activities, target groups and project areas as necessary.

21 January 1997

1997/EB.1/5 Development project for Executive Board approval - Nicaragua 4515 (Exp.1)

The Board approved project Nicaragua 4515 (Exp.1) - Assistance to pre-school and lower primary schoolchildren in depressed areas of Nicaragua (WFP/EB.1/97/6/Add.1) on the understanding that WFP and the Government will develop a strategy for the gradual phasing out of the project.

22 January 1997

1997/EB.1/6

Development project for Executive Board approval - Syria 2418 (Exp.4)

The Board approved project Syria 2418 (Exp.4) - Assistance to reforestation and range land management (WFP/EB.1/97/6/Add.2), noting that it represented the final phase of the project. The Board further stated that, because of the project's potential replicability, it would be interested in reviewing the lessons learned from a final evaluation.

22 January 1997

1997/EB.1/7

Protracted refugee and displaced person project for Executive Board approval - PRO Angola 5602 (Exp.1)

The Board approved PRO Angola 5602 (Exp.1) - Food assistance to displaced and war-affected persons (WFP/EB.1/97/7/Add.1) in the light of suggestions made by the intervening delegations.

22 January 1997

1997/EB.1/8

Evaluation reports

The Board took note of the following evaluation reports and endorsed the Secretariat's plan to continue integrating the lessons learned into the future work of WFP.

a) Egypt 3214 - Land development and settlement in the High Dam Lake area (WFP/EB.1/97/8/Add.1). The Board observed that the recommendations concerning environmental assessment and impact were already being acted upon.

b) India 2303 (Exp.2) - Rural development in the Krishna Basin command area, Karnataka (WFP/EB.1/97/8/Add.2). The Board indicated that the evaluation had provided a useful input to the India Country Programme (WFP/EB.1/97/Add.1).

c) Tunisia 4783 - Rural development in the mountainous regions of the North-West (WFP/EB.1/97/8/Add.3). The Board noted that many of the recommendations were already being implemented.

The Board decided that in future Executive Board sessions, evaluation items will be put on the agenda before discussion of new programmes, projects and operations.

22 January 1997

1997/EB.1/9

Progress reports on approved development projects

The Board took note of the progress report on project Panama 2796 (Exp.1) - Community development and food production in depressed areas (WFP/EB.1/97/9-A/Add.1), which had been in operation for two years or longer, and observed that the project will end on 31 December 1997.

22 January 1997

1997/EB.1/10

Projects approved by the Executive Director, 1 July-31 December 1996

The Board took note of the abstracts concerning the following projects approved by the Executive Director within her delegated authority:

Bangladesh 2197 (Exp.10) - Rural development programme (WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.5)

Egypt 5586 - Support to natural resource management in the North-western desert (WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.2)

Gaza 5761/Q - Support to social safety net programmes in the Gaza Strip (WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.1)

Malawi 5782 - Enhanced food security through targeted food for work (WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.3)

Zaire 5732 - Food security in Kinshasa (WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.4)

22 January 1997

1997/EB.1/11

Protracted refugee and displaced person projects (PROs) approved by the Executive Director, 1 July - 31 December 1996

The Board took note of the abstracts on the following PROs approved by the Executive Director within her delegated authority:

Algeria 4155 (Exp.6) - Food assistance to vulnerable groups among western Saharan refugees (WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.1)

Bangladesh 5329 (Exp.1) - Assistance to Myanmar refugees (WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.4)

Djibouti 4960 (Exp.2) - Food assistance to Ethiopian and Somali refugees and returnees from Ethiopia (WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.5)

Sri Lanka 5346 (Exp.3) - Assistance to Sri Lankan internally displaced persons (WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.2)

Yemen 5771 - Food assistance for Somali refugees (WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.3)

Zambia 5428 (Exp.2) - Food assistance for refugees from Angola and Zaire (WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.6)

22 January 1997

1997/EB.1/12

Budget increases approved by the Executive Director, 1 July-31 December 1996

a) The Board took note of the approval of budget increases for the development projects listed in the report by the Executive Director (WFP/EB.1/97/9-D):

Madagascar 3936 - Primary school feeding

Mali 2231 (Exp.4) - Multipurpose rural development

Zambia 4756 - Vulnerable group feeding and institutional feeding

Sri Lanka 4521 - Improvements of minor irrigation schemes in four selected districts

Guyana 4889 - Multipurpose agricultural and community development project

Yemen 2453 (Exp.3) - Assistance to MCH centres

Yemen 4695 - Assistance to schools, institutes and kindergarten

b) The Board took note of the approval of budget increases for the PROs listed in the report by the Executive Director (WFP/EB.1/97/9-D/Add.1):

Djibouti 4960 (Exp.1) - Food aid to Ethiopian and Somali refugees

Mauritania 5413 (Exp.2) - Food aid to Malian refugees

Bangladesh 5329 - Assistance to Rohingya refugees from Myanmar

Iran 4161 (Exp.3) - Food assistance to Iraqi refugees

22 January 1997

1997/EB.1/13

Summary of the work of the Third Regular Session of 1996 of the Executive Board

The Board endorsed the Summary of the work of the Third Regular Session (WFP/EB.3/96/15) of the Executive Board and agreed to incorporate in the Summary of discussion of the current session the specific comments submitted in writing by the representative of the Netherlands.

23 January 1997

1997/EB.1/14

Other business

The Board recalled and then reaffirmed its decision on the Progress report on the state of WFP premises (1996/EB.3/31, 23 October 1996). It considered the efforts made by the Government of Italy in order to comply with the requirements of WFP. It also requested the Secretariat to keep the Board informed of any further developments on this matter.

23 January 1997

AGENDA

1. *Adoption of the agenda*
2. *Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board and appointment of the Rapporteur*
3. *Policy issues - Implications of the World Food Summit Plan of Action for WFP*
4. *Resource and Financial matters: Update of indirect cost rates*
5. *Country Programmes*
6. *Development projects for Executive Board approval*
7. *Protracted refugee and displaced person projects for Executive Board approval*
8. *Evaluation reports*
9. *Reports submitted by the Executive Director*
    - a) Progress reports on approved development projects
    - b) Projects approved by the Executive Director, 1 July - 31 December 1996
    - c) Protracted refugee and displaced person projects approved by the Executive Director, 1 July - 31 December 1996
    - d) Budget increases approved by the Executive Director, 1 July - 31 December 1996
10. *Summary of the work of the Third Regular Session of 1996 of the Executive Board*
11. *Other business*
12. *Verification of the adopted decisions and recommendations*

ANNEX II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Provisional agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
1	Provisional agenda	WFP/EB.1/97/1
	Annotated provisional agenda	WFP/EB.1/97/1/Add.1 + Corr.1
3	Implications of the World Food Summit Plan of Action for WFP	WFP/EB.1/97/3
4	Update of indirect cost rates	WFP/EB.1/97/4
5	Country programmes (covering note)	WFP/EB.1/97/5
	- India	WFP/EB.1/97/5/Add.1 + Corr.1
6	Development projects for Executive Board approval (covering note)	WFP/EB.1/97/6
	- Nicaragua 4515 (Exp.1)	WFP/EB.1/97/6/Add.1
	- Syria 2418 (Exp.4)	WFP/EB.1/97/6/Add.2 + Corr.1
7	Protracted refugee and displaced person projects for Executive Board approval (covering note)	WFP/EB.1/97/7
	- Angola 5602 (Exp.1)	WFP/EB.1/97/7/Add.1
8	Evaluation reports (covering note)	WFP/EB.1/97/8
	- Terminal evaluation of project Egypt 3214	WFP/EB.1/97/8/Add.1
	- Interim evaluation of project India 2303 (Exp.2)	WFP/EB.1/97/8/Add.2
	- Interim evaluation of project Tunisia 4783	WFP/EB.1/97/8/Add.3
9 a)	Progress reports on approved projects (covering note)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-A
	- Panama 2796 (Exp.1)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-A/Add.1
9 b)	Projects approved by the Executive Director (covering note)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-B + Corr.1
	- Gaza 5761/Q	WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.1
	- Egypt 5586	WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.2
	- Malawi 5782	WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.3
	- Zaire 5732	WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.4
	- Bangladesh 2197 (Exp.10)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.5

Provisional agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
9 c)	Protracted refugee and displaced person projects approved by the Executive Director (covering note)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-C
	- Algeria 4155 (Exp.6)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.1
	- Sri Lanka 5346 (Exp.3)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.2
	- Yemen 5771	WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.3 + Corr.1
	- Bangladesh 5329 (Exp.1)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.4
	- Djibouti 4960 (Exp.2)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.5
	- Zambia 5428 (Exp.2)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-C/Add.6
9 d)	Budget increases to development projects approved by the Executive Director (covering note only)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-D + Corr.1
	Budget increases to protracted refugee and displaced person projects approved by the Executive Director (covering note only)	WFP/EB.1/97/9-D/Add.1
10	Summaries of the work of the Third Regular Session of 1996 of the Executive Board	WFP/EB.3/96/15
12	Decisions and recommendations of the First Regular Session of 1997 of the Executive Board	WFP/EB.1/97/12
	Other documents	
	Information for participants	WFP/EB.1/97/INF/1
	Revised list of documents	WFP/EB.1/97/INF/2/Rev.1
	Provisional timetable	WFP/EB.1/97/INF/3
	Offices and telephone numbers	WFP/EB.1/97/INF/4
	Revised list of participants	WFP/EB.1/97/INF/5/Rev.1
	Working methods and procedures of the Executive Board	WFP/EB.1/97/INF/6
	Proposed Financial Regulations	WFP/EB.1/97/INF/7
	Calendar of conferences and meetings of interest to WFP (January-December 1997)	WFP/EB.1/97/INF/8
	Situation on outstanding balance of commitments	WFP/EB.1/97/INF/9
	Information note on indirect support cost rates	WFP/EB.1/97/INF/10

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members of the Executive Board

Algeria:	Ms. H. Yahia-Cherif
Angola:	H.E. A.A. Ervedosa Abreu; Mr. J.A. Martins; Mr. K.K. Mateva
Bangladesh:	Mr. A. Akhtaruzzaman
Belgium:	H.E. R. De Clercq; Mr. P. Brandelard; Ms. J. Gentile
Brazil:	Mr. F.J. Marroni De Abreu
Burundi:	H.E. J.-B. Mbonyingingo; Ms. E. Kabushemeye-Ntamwana
Cameroon:	H.E. M.T. Kima
Canada:	Mr. M.G. Pilote; Ms. G. Saint-Cyr
China:	H.E. T. Zhengping; Mr. L. Zhengdong; Mr. Z. Zhongjun; Mr. Q. Sixi; Mr. L. Yutong
Cuba:	H.E. J. Nuiry Sánchez; Ms. A.M. Navarro
Denmark:	Mr. L.-H. Worsøe
El Salvador:	Ms. M.E. Jiménez; Mr. E. Vides
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France:	H.E. L. Dominici; Mr. J.-L. Rysto
Germany:	H.E. G. Massmann; Mr. G. Bonnet; Mr. K.G. Dilg; Mr. H. Wächter; Mr. G. Roscher; Mr. W. Monigatti
Haiti:	Ms. S. Percy
Hungary:	Ms. M. Kovács
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Indonesia:	Mr. H.S. Husen; Mr. I.N. Ardha; Mr. Uu Suhadi Mawardana
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Nigeria:	Mr. B.M. Ukpong
Norway:	Mr. A. Danevad
Paraguay:	Mr. R.R. Inchausti Valdez
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Observer States

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Australia:	Ms. C. Walker
Austria	Mr. E. Zimmerl
Bolivia:	Mr. A.G. Quint
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Permanent Observer of the Holy See:	H.E. Mons. Alois Wagner; Mr. V. Buonomo; Mr. L. Bernardi; Mr. G. Tedesco
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Israel:	Mr. R. Morav
Kenya:	Mr. P.K. Chepkwony; Mr. J.K. Boinnet
Lesotho:	Mr. T. Khalema
Malaysia	Mr. K.M. Tahir; Mr. A.G.A. Tambi
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Mozambique:	Mr. A. Sigauque
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Panama:	Mr. H. Maltez
Peru:	Mr. P. Paredes
Romania:	Mr. G. Apostoiu; Mr. M. Dobre
Spain:	Mr. J. Piernavieja Niembro
Sri Lanka:	H.E. U. Pethiyagoda; Mr. R.D.S. Kumararatne
Sweden:	Mr. S. Berggren; Ms. B. Karlström Dorph
Syrian Arab Republic:	Mr. Q. Muqdad; Mr. A. Farouk; Mr. H. Khaddour
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:	Mr. R. Blazevski

Thailand:	Mr. P. Korsieporn
Turkey:	Mr. A.N. Koru
Uganda:	Mr. W.A. Sakira
United Republic of Tanzania:	Mr. J.K. Mhella
Viet Nam:	Ms. P.T. Cúc
Yemen:	Mr. A. Al-Hawri
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Other observers

Associate Member of FAO

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United Nations, specialized agencies and its organizations

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ILO:	Mr. W. Schiefelbusch
UNESCO:	Ms. A. Bouya
WHO:	Ms. M. Mokbel Genequand
IFAD:	Mr. A. Rahman
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Non-governmental organizations

Caritas Internationalis:	Ms. P. Wohlrab; Mr. E. Hartmans
International Federation of Agricultural Producers	Ms. G. Pelá

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Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

Executive Board
Second Regular Session

Rome, 24 - 26 March 1997

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1997

E

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Rapporteur:	**Mr. Abdeljelil Ben Ajmia**	(Tunisia)

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda

The Executive Board adopted the agenda as proposed (Annex I).

24 March 1997

Appointment of the Rapporteur

In keeping with the established methods of work, the Board appointed Mr. Abdeljelil Ben Ajmia (Tunisia) Rapporteur of the Second Regular Session of 1997.

24 March 1997

1997/EB.2/1

WFP support to countries in establishing and managing national food assistance programmes

The Board endorsed the document (WFP/EB.2./97/3-A) and agreed with the proposed measures to carry out WFP's mandate of providing support to national food assistance programmes.

The Board noted the need for WFP to adopt a careful, demand-driven approach, taking into account the specific circumstances of individual countries.

24 March 1997

1997/EB.2/2

Report to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the follow-up to its resolution 1995/56 - Strengthening of the coordination of emergency and humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Board took note of the report (WFP/EB.2/97/3-B) containing information on the follow-up to its decision relating to ECOSOC resolution 1995/56, taken at the Third Regular Session of 1996 (1996/EB.3/4). The Board supported the overall recommendations on coordination and requested the Secretariat to transmit them to ECOSOC through the Secretariat of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA).

24 March 1997

1997/EB.2/3

Progress report on the Revision of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNHCR

The Board took note of the signature of the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (WFP/EB.2/97/3-C/Add.1).

24 March 1997

1997/EB.2/4

Progress report on WFP's Commitments to Women

The Board endorsed the strategies proposed in the document (WFP/EB.2/97/3-D and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to meet WFP's Commitments to Women and the relevant commitments of the World Food Summit.

24 March 1997

1997/EB.2/5

Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations

The Board considered the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations (WFP/EB.2/97/4), the proposed WFP General Regulations and Rules (WFP/EB.2/97/4/Add.1), and another report of the Working Group containing further recommendations (WFP/EB.2/97/4/Add.2).

After taking a decision on various issues referred to it by the Working Group, the Board decided by consensus:

a) to request the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the FAO Council to endorse and recommend for approval to the General Assembly and the FAO Conference the proposed General Regulations contained in Annex II to this document;

b) to approve provisionally the proposed General Rules subject to the final approval of the proposed General Regulations by both the General Assembly of the United Nations and the FAO Conference. The General Rules could be applied provisionally from that date and confirmed by the Board at its first session thereafter.

25 March 1997

1997/EB.2/6

Evaluation reports

a) General discussion

The Board recommended that evaluation reports continue to be presented before operational documents.

b) Thematic evaluation on forestry projects in India - food aid and tribal people

The Board took note of the thematic evaluation summary report (WFP/EB.2/97/5/Add.1) on five of the WFP-supported projects that deliver assistance to tribal and scheduled caste people in the forest areas of India: India 2683 - Socio-economic development through forestry activities in Bihar; India 2685 - Socio-economic development through forestry activities in Orissa; India 2751 - Watershed development and afforestation in Uttar Pradesh; India 2773 (Exp.1) - Employment through forestry activities and tribal development in Rajasthan; and India 3227 - Rehabilitation of degraded forests and afforestation in Madhya Pradesh. It urged the Secretariat and the Government of India to incorporate the recommendations of the evaluations into future activities of this kind. The Board recommended that greater attention be given to improved targeting and needs assessment, monitoring - in particular of benefits and benefit sharing - beneficiary participation, and to alternative income-generating activities.

c) Ex-post evaluation of the impact and sustainability of selected WFP-assisted projects in China

The Board took note of the summary evaluation report (WFP/EB.2/97/5/Add.2) of the four selected projects: China 2639 - Xingpuzichuang irrigation project, Jingyuan County; China 2697 - Irrigation in three counties; China 2744 - Improved land use of the Loess Plateau, Mizhi County, Shaanxi Province; and China 3146 - Improvement of low-yielding lands, Anshun Prefecture, Guizhou Province. The Secretariat acknowledged the methodological difficulties involved in distinguishing between the effects induced by the projects and those arising from the generally expanding economy of China. The Secretariat agreed to incorporate an assessment of environmental sustainability into future evaluations of agricultural productivity projects.

d) Thematic evaluation - Case study on WFP phasing-out experience: Brazil

The Board took note of the thematic evaluation report (WFP/EB.2/97/5/Add.3) on project Brazil 2732 (Exp.1) - Feeding of pre-school and primary schoolchildren in depressed areas, and urged the Secretariat to integrate the recommendations of the evaluation into its future work with school feeding programmes and activities. The Board endorsed the recommendation that phase-out plans and corresponnding technical assistance should be incorporated into the original design of school feeding programmes. It recommended that the Secretariat integrate the findings of the evaluation into the ongoing formulation of WFP's strategy on school feeding.

e) Evaluation of WFP-assisted emergency relief operations in the Caucasus, including the CLAU operation

The Board took note of the summary evaluation report (WFP/EB.2/97/5/Add.4) in WFP-assisted emergency relief operations in the Caucasus (Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia), including the operation Caucasus Logistics Advisory Unit (CLAU), and acknowledged the positive findings. While recognizing the important role played by WFP, the Board stressed that the Secretariat should become involved in logistical exercises only in special food-assistance-related circumstances.

25 March 1997

1997/EB.2/7

Country Strategy Outline - Senegal

The Board welcomed the CSO for Senegal (WFP/EB.2/97/6/Add.1), and noted with satisfaction the WFP strategy proposed therein. The Board pointed out that concrete measures to increase community participation, especially of women, should be clearly defined. It recommended that the synergy between WFP assistance and support from United Nations multilateral and bilateral agencies (particularly the World Bank and FAO), be enhanced. The Board took note of the support given by the Government to the strategy proposed by WFP, and of the Senegalese authorities' firm intention to ensure community participation. The Board recommended that, in formulating a Country Programme, the Secretariat take into account the comments and suggestions made by representatives.

25 March 1997

1997/EB.2/8

Country Strategy Outline - Zambia

The Board welcomed the CSO for Zambia (WFP/EB.2/97/6/Add.2) and recommended that, in formulating a Contry Programme, the Secretariat take into account the comments and suggestions made by representatives.

26 March 1997

1997/EB.2/9

Development project for Executive Board approval - China 5717

The Board approved project China 5717 - Integrated agricultural development in Haidong Prefecture, Qinghai Province (WFP/EB.2/97/7-A/Add.2). It recommended that WFP keep under review the availability of resources.

25 March 1997

1997/EB.2/10 **Development project for Executive Board approval - Sudan 531 (Exp.3)**

The Board approved project Sudan 531 (Exp.3) - Assistance to primary school students (WFP/EB.2/97/7-A/Add.1).

26 March 1997

1997/EB.2/11 **Budget increase to a project approved previously, for Executive Board approval - Ethiopia 4929**

The Board approved the proposed budget increase to project Ethiopia 4929 - Improving education through school feeding (WFP/EB.2/97/7-B/Add.1).

25 March 1997

1997/EB.2/12 **Budget increase to a project approved previously, for Executive Board approval - Morocco 2288 (Exp.4)**

The Board approved the budget increase to project Morocco 2288 (Exp.4) - School feeding in rural primary schools - second tranche: enrolment of rural girls (WFP/EB.2/97/7-B/Add.2). The Board received the assurance that Expansion 4 will be the final phase.

26 March 1997

1997/EB.2/13 **Protracted refugee and displaced person project (PRO) for Executive Board approval - Kenya 4961 (Exp.3)**

The Board approved project Kenya 4961 (Exp.3) - Food assistance for Somali and Sudanese refugees (WFP/EB.2/97/8/Add.1).

26 March 1997

1997/EB.2/14 **Protracted refugee and displaced person project (PRO) for Executive Board approval - Mali Regional 5804**

The Board approved project Mali Regional 5804 - Food aid for Malian refugees, returnees and conflict-affected persons (WFP/EB.2/97/8/Add.3).

26 March 1997

1997/EB.2/15 **Protracted refugee and displaced person project (PRO) for Executive Board approval - Sierra Leone 5802**

The Board approved project Sierra Leone 5802 - Targeted food assistance and support to resettlement of internally displaced persons in Sierra Leone and of returning Sierra Leonian refugees (WFP/EB.2/97/8/Add.2).

26 March 1997

1997/EB.2/16 **Progress reports on approved projects**

Welcoming the progress report on PRO Nepal 5324 (Exp.1) - Food assistance to Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, the Board recommended that:

a) The findings and recommendations of the joint WFP/UNHCR assessment mission, scheduled for April/May 1997, be reflected in the project document for Nepal 5324 (Exp.2), to be presented to the Board at its Third Regular Session of 1997.

b) The continuation of the bilateral dialogue between the Governments of Nepal and Bhutan be encouraged, so as to ensure a durable solution to the problem of refugees.

25 March 1997

1997/EB.2/17 **Summary of the work of the First Regular Session of 1997 of the Executive Board**

The Board endorsed the Summary of the Work of the First Regular Session (WFP/EB.1/97/13) and agreed to the inclusion of the following initial sentence in paragraph 6: "Some members of the Board expressed their concern on the delayed submission of the Cost Measurement Study, which impaired their preparation of the agenda item. They welcomed the Secretariat's assistance to prevent such situation in the future."

26 March 1997

1997/EB.2/18 **Other business**

The Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group appraised the Board of the procedure to be followed for the final approval of the Financial Regulations by the Board at its Third Regular Session, from 28 to 30 October 1997.

26 March 1997

AGENDA

1. ***Adoption of the agenda***
2. ***Appointment of the Rapporteur***
3. ***Policy issues***
   - a) WFP support to countries in establishing and managing national food assistance programmes
   - b) Report to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the follow-up to its resolution 1995/56
   - c) Progress report on the revision of the Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR
   - d) Progress report on the implementation of WFP's commitment to women
4. ***Governance matters: Report of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations***
5. ***Evaluation Reports***
6. ***Country Strategy Outlines***
7. ***Development projects***
   - a) Development projects for Executive Board approval
   - b) Budget increases for projects approved previously, for Executive Board approval
8. ***Protracted refugee and displaced person projects for Executive Board approval***
9. ***Reports submitted by the Executive Director***

   Progress reports on approved projects
10. ***Summary of the work of the First Regular Session of 1997 of the Executive Board***
11. ***Other business***
12. ***Verification of the adopted decisions and recommendations***

PROPOSED GENERAL REGULATIONS AND RULES

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ARTICLE I: ESTABLISHMENT **The World Food Programme (hereinafter "WFP") is jointly established by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereinafter "FAO") as a programme for the purposes and for the performance of the functions set out in the present General Regulations and shall continue its activities in the light of periodic reviews.**	
ARTICLE II: THE PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS OF WFP **1. The purposes of WFP are:**	**General Rule II.1: Mission Statement of WFP** The purposes and functions of WFP shall be complemented and amplified in a Mission Statement. The Executive Board shall periodically review and update, as appropriate, the Mission Statement of WFP.
***(a)* to use food aid to support economic and social development;** ***(b)* to meet refugee and other emergency and protracted relief food needs;**	**General Rule II.2: Programme categories** In order to carry out the purposes of WFP, the Board establishes the following programme categories:
***(c)* to promote world food security in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations and FAO.**	*(a)* Development Programme Category, for food aid programmes and projects to support economic and social development. This programme category includes rehabilitation and disaster preparedness projects and technical assistance to help developing countries establish or improve their own food assistance programmes;
2. In order to achieve the foregoing purposes, WFP shall, on request, implement food aid programmes, projects and activities:	*(b)* Emergency Relief Programme Category, for food assistance to meet emergency needs;
***(a)* to aid in economic and social development, concentrating its efforts and resources on the neediest people and countries;**	*(c)* Protracted Relief Programme Category, for food assistance to meet protracted relief needs; and
***(b)* to assist in the continuum from emergency relief to development by giving priority to supporting disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation and post-disaster rehabilitation activities;**	*(d)* Special Operations Programme Category, for activities to rehabilitate and enhance transport infrastructure, if necessary and in extraordinary circumstances, to permit speedy and efficient delivery of food assistance to meet emergency and protracted relief needs.

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(c) to assist in meeting refugee and other emergency and protracted relief food needs, using this assistance to the extent possible to serve both relief and development purposes; **(d)** to provide services to bilateral donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations for operations which are consistent with the purposes of WFP and which complement WFP's operations.	
ARTICLE III: COOPERATION OF WFP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND FAO AND WITH OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS **In all stages of its activities, WFP shall, as appropriate, consult with and seek advice and cooperation from the United Nations and FAO. It shall also coordinate and operate in close liaison with appropriate United Nations agencies and operating programmes, bilateral assistance programmes, and other relevant organizations, as required.**	**General Rule III.1: Modalities of cooperation of WFP with the United Nations and FAO and with other agencies and organizations** *(a)* WFP shall ensure active operational and technical cooperation with the United Nations and FAO, United Nations agencies and operating programmes, bilateral assistance programmes, and other relevant organizations at all stages of programme and project preparation, implementation and evaluation. The Executive Director shall give special attention to developing these and other means of cooperation with these agencies, programmes and organizations, and shall report to the Board from time to time on the results. *(b)* WFP shall, whenever possible, associate its assistance with material, financial and technical assistance provided through other multilateral programmes and shall seek similar coordination with bilateral programmes and non-governmental operational partners. *(c)* WFP shall, wherever possible, collaborate and cooperate, as appropriate, with non-governmental organizations.
ARTICLE IV: HEADQUARTERS **The Headquarters of WFP shall be in Rome, Italy.**	
ARTICLE V: ORGANIZATION: ORGANS **The organs of WFP shall be:** **(a)** The Executive Board (hereinafter "the Board") jointly established by the United Nations and FAO and composed of thirty-six (36) States Members of the United Nations or Member Nations of FAO to be elected by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and the Council of FAO from among the States listed in Appendix A in accordance with the distribution of seats set out in Appendix B. **(b)** A Secretariat comprising an Executive Director and such staff as WFP may require.	

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ARTICLE VI: POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD

1. The Board shall, within the framework of these General Regulations, be responsible for providing intergovernmental support and specific policy direction to and supervision of the activities of WFP in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the FAO Conference, the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO, and for ensuring that WFP is responsive to the needs and priorities of recipient countries. The Board will be subject to the general authority of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO.

2. The functions of the Board shall be the following:

(a) The Board shall help evolve and coordinate short-term and longer-term food aid policies. It shall, in particular:

(i) ensure implementation of the policies formulated by the General Assembly and the FAO Conference and the coordination measures and guidance received from the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO;

(ii) provide a forum for intergovernmental consultation on national and international food aid programmes and policies;

(iii) review periodically general trends in food aid requirements and food aid availabilities, and the implementation of recommendations made on food aid policies;

(iv) formulate proposals for improvements in and more effective coordination of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental food aid policies and programmes, including emergency food aid; and

(v) recommend new policy initiatives to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO and, through them, respectively, to the General Assembly and FAO Conference as necessary;

(b) The Board shall be responsible for the intergovernmental supervision and direction of the management of WFP. It shall, in particular:

(i) receive information from and give direction and guidance to the Executive Director;

(ii) ensure that the activities and operational strategies of WFP are consistent with the overall policy guidance set forth by the General Assembly and the FAO Conference, as well as the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO;

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(iii) monitor the performance of WFP, and review the administration and execution of the activities of WFP;	
(iv) decide on strategic and financial plans and budgets;	**General Rule VI.1: Strategic and Financial Plan** The Executive Director shall submit to the Annual Session of the Board, in the second year of each financial period, a Strategic and Financial Plan that will cover a four-year period, be prepared every two years on a rolling basis and will highlight the main features of the proposed programme of work for the ensuing financial period.
(v) encourage and examine new programme initiatives;	
(vi) adopt and, as necessary, revise the general rules required to give effect to these General Regulations. The general rules and any amendments thereto shall be reported to the Economic and Social Council and to the Council of FAO; and	
(vii) adopt and, as necessary, revise the Financial Regulations in accordance with Article XIV of these General Regulations.	
(viii) consider the biennial report on inspections and investigations, and take such action thereon as it considers appropriate	
(c) The Board shall review, modify as necessary, and approve programmes, projects and activities submitted to it by the Executive Director. In respect of such approvals, however, it may delegate to the Executive Director such authority as it may specify. It shall review, modify as necessary, and approve the budgets of programmes, projects and activities, and review the administration and execution of approved programmes, projects and activities of WFP.	**General Rule VI.2: Delegation of authority** The authority delegated to the Executive Director by the Board is listed in the Appendix to these General Rules.
(d) The Board shall carry out such other responsibilities as are conferred upon it in these General Regulations.	
3. The Board shall provide a concise report annually on WFP's programmes, projects and activities including major decisions of the Board to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO. The annual report must contain sections referring to one or all of the following, as appropriate:	
(a) monitoring of the implementation of all previous policy decisions referred to in paragraph 2 (a) (i) of this Article;	
(b) policy recommendations;	
(c) coordination recommendations including for improvement of field-level coordination; and	

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(d) such other matters as may be required pursuant to decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO.	
4. The Board shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure. The Rules of Procedure shall:	
(a) with respect to the approval of programmes, projects and other activities, make provision for such approval being obtained by correspondence between sessions of the Board;	
(b) make provision for inviting Members of the United Nations or Members or Associate Members of FAO that are not members of the Board to participate without the right to vote in the deliberations of the Board. Any Member of the United Nations or FAO, and any Associate Member of FAO, and any Member or Associate Member of any other specialized agency or the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), that is not a member of the Board, whose programme, project or other activity is under review, or who has a particular interest in a programme, project or other activity, shall have the right to participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Board.	
5. The Board shall hold an annual session and such regular sessions as it considers necessary and, in exceptional circumstances, may hold special sessions on request submitted in writing by at least one third of the members of the Board, or with the concurrence of one third of the members of the Board on the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (hereinafter "the Secretary-General") and the Director-General of FAO (hereinafter "the Director-General") or on the call of the Executive Director.	
6. The Board shall ensure, in the programmes, projects and other activities under its supervision, that commercial markets and normal and developing trade are neither interfered with nor disrupted, that the agricultural economy in recipient countries is adequately safeguarded and that due consideration is given to safeguarding normal commercial practices in respect of acceptable services in accordance with the relevant decisions of the United Nations and FAO, and their subsidiary bodies.	

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ARTICLE VII: WFP SECRETARIAT: ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS

1. **The Secretariat of WFP shall be headed by an Executive Director, who shall be responsible and accountable to the Board for the administration of WFP and for the implementation of WFP programmes, projects and other activities.**

2. **The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Secretary-General and the Director-General after consultation with the Board.**

3. **The Executive Director shall be appointed for a term of office of five years. The procedure set out in paragraph 2 above shall apply to reappointment which shall, in no case, be for more than one further term.**

4. **The Executive Director shall be responsible for providing necessary services to the Board.**

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General Rule VII.1: Responsibilities of the Executive Director for programmes, projects and other activities

The Executive Director shall be responsible for assuring that programmes, projects and other activities to be implemented are sound, carefully planned and directed towards valid objectives, for assuring the mobilization of the necessary technical and administrative skills, and for assessing the ability of recipient countries to carry out these programmes, projects and other activities. The Executive Director shall be responsible for assuring the supply of commodities and acceptable services as agreed. The Executive Director shall make arrangements for the evaluation of country programmes, projects and other activities. The Executive Director shall have the responsibility to seek, in consultation with recipient governments, correction of any inadequacies in the operation of programmes, projects and other activities, and may withdraw assistance in the event essential corrections are not made.

General Rule VII.2: Reporting

Each year the Executive Director shall submit to the Board for its consideration and approval an Annual Report and other reports as directed by the Board. These reports shall enable the Board to obtain a comprehensive view of the operational activities of WFP, its resource position, the results of programme and project evaluations, and progress in achieving targets and policies established by the Board. The Annual Report shall, *inter alia:*

(a) include statistical and narrative information on: global food aid and issues affecting it; approved activities and their implementation; contributions, commitments and expenditures; and procurement;

(b) identify the highlights of each year's activities and related policy issues and report on progress made in achieving strategic objectives and implementing overall policy guidance and specific policy directions.

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5. The Executive Director shall be responsible for the staffing and organization of the Secretariat. The selection and appointment of senior officials above the level of D2 shall be made by the Executive Director in agreement with the Secretary-General and the Director-General.	**General Rule VII.3: Staffing** In the appointment of staff, paramount importance shall be given to securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. The Executive Director shall also give due consideration, in the professional and higher categories, to appropriate geographical distribution and to gender balance in accordance with policy guidance from the General Assembly of the United Nations and the FAO Conference.
6. The Executive Director shall administer the staff of WFP in accordance with FAO Staff Regulations and Rules and such special rules as may be established by the Executive Director in agreement with the Secretary-General and the Director-General.	
7. The Executive Director shall keep the cost of management and administration of WFP to a minimum consistent with the maintenance of efficiency and accountability and shall use the most efficient and cost-effective services, including in the field. In this context, and in the context of relevant resolutions of the United Nations and FAO, the Executive Director shall, under such arrangements as may be agreed upon: *(a)* make extensive use of the technical services of FAO, the United Nations and other agencies of the United Nations system where these offer the most efficient and cost-effective services; and *(b)* where appropriate, draw upon the administrative, financial, and other services of FAO, the United Nations and other agencies of the United Nations system.	**General Rule VII.4: Technical services** WFP will, consistent with General Regulation VII.7, use FAO's global information and early warning systems and technical project services.
8. The representative of WFP for each country where WFP has operational activities shall be designated by the Executive Director. In other countries, the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), or the Regional Representative of UNDP, as the case may be, shall act as the representative of WFP at the request of the Executive Director and with the agreement of the Administrator of UNDP.	
9. Without prejudice to the authority of the Secretary-General and the Director-General, the Executive Director shall generally represent WFP and perform such functions as may be conferred on the Executive Director or on the Secretariat under any agreements concluded by the United Nations and FAO on behalf of WFP with States or intergovernmental organizations, and under the assistance agreements provided for in Article XI of these General Regulations.	
10. The Executive Director shall exercise such other responsibilities, as are conferred upon the Executive Director in these General Regulations or as may be conferred by the Board.	

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11. The Executive Director may delegate to other officials of WFP such authority as the Executive Director considers necessary for the effective carrying out of the responsibilities of the Executive Director.	
ARTICLE VIII: LEGAL STATUS AND CAPACITY **1. WFP is an autonomous joint subsidiary programme of the United Nations and FAO.** **2. WFP shall, drawing on the legal personality of the United Nations and FAO, have legal capacity:** ***(a)* to contract;** ***(b)* to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property;** ***(c)* to be party to judicial proceedings.** **3. Any liability arising from the exercise of the legal capacity referred to above shall be met by WFP from its own funds and shall not constitute a liability on other funds of the United Nations or FAO.**	
ARTICLE IX: ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE **All States Members of the United Nations or Members or Associate Members of any specialized agency or of the IAEA shall be eligible to submit requests for consideration by WFP. WFP may also provide emergency food aid and associated non-food items and logistics support at the request of the Secretary-General. WFP assistance in such exceptional cases shall be fully coordinated with the United Nations system and efforts of governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations in the areas concerned.**	**General Rule IX.1: Eligibility for assistance** WFP shall establish its annual programming of development resources in accordance with the criteria for receiving assistance, and the objectives, priorities and resource allocation decision set out in WFP's Mission Statement.
ARTICLE X: REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE **1. Governments desiring assistance from WFP may request:** ***(a)* food aid programmes and projects to support economic and social development;** ***(b)* food assistance to meet emergency needs;** ***(c)* food assistance to meet protracted relief needs;**	**General Rule X.1: Local assistance in project preparation** **In preparing requests for assistance under Article X of the General Regulations, governments desiring assistance from WFP should draw to the extent possible and necessary, on national and other locally available expertise, including that of the United Nations, FAO, WFP and other United Nations organizations. Requests shall normally be presented through the WFP Representatives, who shall keep the United Nations Resident Coordinators and, as appropriate, the representatives of other United Nations agencies fully informed.**

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(d) technical assistance to help establish or improve their own food assistance programmes.	
2. Bilateral donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations may request WFP services for operations which are consistent with the purposes of WFP and which complement WFP's operations.	
3. Requests for assistance to country programmes or development projects shall indicate that they have a clear relationship with the recipient country's development plans and priorities and include, as appropriate, a significant input of the recipient government's resources. WFP should also be assured that all efforts will be made, as feasible and appropriate, to have the objectives of the programmes and projects pursued once the operations of WFP have been phased out.	**General Rule X.2: Country Programmes for development assistance** *(a)* Within the framework of the Strategic and Financial Plan, the Executive Director shall submit to the Board for review and approval multi-year country programmes to be undertaken by WFP that are integrated with the development plans and priorities of the recipient countries. *(b)* To facilitate the preparation of a Country Programme, WFP shall develop, in consultation with the government and with the collaboration of the United Nations, FAO and other relevant organizations a Country Strategy Outline (CSO). The CSO should establish clear linkages with the Country Strategy Note or with activities of the United Nations system as a whole, as appropriate, including wherever possible, joint programming. *(c)* The Executive Director shall seek the advice of the Board on Country Strategy Outlines and its approval for Country Programmes. *(d)* Approval by the Board of a Country Programme shall constitute a delegation to the Executive Director to approve projects and activities within that Country Programme as set out in the Appendix to these General Rules.
4. Requests for assistance or services shall be presented in the form indicated by the Executive Director and in accordance with general rules made pursuant to these General Regulations.	**General Rule X.3: Provision of information by recipient countries** Recipient countries should, as far as feasible, provide the Executive Director with any relevant information on other aid programmes that would assist WFP in coordinating its activities with such other programmes. When this is not possible, the donor countries or organizations may supply the relevant information. **General Rule X.4: Additional external technical or financial assistance** The recipient country shall be responsible for obtaining and arranging any additional external technical or financial assistance as may be available from multilateral and other sources. Before accepting a programme or project which requires such additional assistance to make them feasible, the Executive Director shall obtain assurance that such assistance is available.

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	General Rule X.5: Requests for assistance Requests for assistance under Articles IX and X of the General Regulations should contain the basic information relating thereto. **General Rule X.6: Appraisal of requests** The Executive Director shall, upon receipt of requests, proceed to appraise them, and in doing so, seek to maximize the use of local and regional expertise and consult with and seek advice and cooperation from the United Nations, FAO and, as appropriate, other United Nations agencies and operating programmes, bilateral assistance programmes, and other relevant organizations according to their respective fields of competence.
5. In examining such requests and in formulating proposals thereon the Executive Director shall consult closely with the United Nations, FAO and other relevant agencies.	**General Rule X.7: Approval of requests** *(a)* Proposals for development projects and projects for protracted relief operations shall be presented by the Executive Director to the Board for approval, except that the Executive Director may decide upon requests for projects within the limits of the Executive Director's delegated authority. *(b)* Requests for emergency assistance shall be approved in accordance with General Regulation X.6.
6. Decisions on requests shall be made in accordance with the powers and functions of the Board, including any delegation of authority made by the Board to the Executive Director. Decisions on requests for assistance to meet emergency needs which exceed the level of authority delegated to the Executive Director shall be made jointly by the Executive Director and the Director General.	**General Rule X.8: Availability of resources** The Executive Director shall ensure that development projects submitted to the Board for approval, and development projects and Country Programme activities approved under the Executive Director's delegated authority, can be implemented within estimated available resources. Resource availability shall take into account pledges and contributions expected for the current financial period, as well as resources which can reasonably be expected to be contributed during the two subsequent financial periods including resources which could be made available by the recipient government itself or by bilateral donors.

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ARTICLE XI: ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS **1. Upon approval by the Board or by the Executive Director on its behalf, of a request for a food aid programme or project, or for technical assistance to help a government establish or improve its own food assistance programme, an agreement shall be prepared by the Executive Director in consultation with the government concerned. All such agreements shall indicate the terms and conditions on which the proposed activities are to be carried out and the responsibilities of the government of the recipient country.**	**General Rule XI.1: Matters to be included in food aid programme and project agreements** In addition to other terms and conditions upon which the proposed activities are to be carried out in connection with an approved programme or project, the agreements shall indicate aid to be provided by other agencies or institutions, the terms of delivery of commodities, the obligations of the government with respect to the utilization of the commodities supplied, including the use and control of any local currencies generated from their sale, and with respect to the arrangements made for their storage, internal transportation and distribution; the responsibility of the government for all expenses incurred from the point of delivery, including the cost of import duties, taxes, levies, dues and wharfage; and such other relevant terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon as necessary for the execution and subsequent evaluation of the programme or project. Such agreements shall safeguard WFP's right to monitor all phases of programme and project operations from the receipt of commodities in the country to final utilization; provide for audits as necessary; and allow WFP to suspend or withdraw assistance in case of serious non-compliance. They shall also provide for the collection of data on the food distribution and its effects on the improvement of the nutritional status of the beneficiaries and the economic and social development of the country on a longer-term basis; for the maintenance of complete records, including transport and storage documents, concerning the utilization of assistance from WFP; and for the communication of such records to WFP upon request.
2. Upon approval of a request for emergency or protracted relief food aid, an agreement, which may be in the form of an exchange of letters, may be concluded forthwith between the Executive Director and the government of the recipient country and/or intergovernmental or non-governmental bodies concerned.	**General Rule XI.2: Duration of agreements**
3. Upon approval of a request for services to bilateral donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, the Executive Director may enter into an agreement with the government, or intergovernmental and/or non-governmental body concerned, specifying the services to be provided and the terms and conditions on which the proposed services are to be carried out.	Agreements may provide for programmes or projects under which assistance from WFP would be available for a maximum period of five years, provided that such agreements also carry the qualification that their full execution is conditional upon resources becoming available.
4. Assistance agreements shall be signed by the Executive Director, or the Executive Director's representative, on behalf of WFP.	

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ARTICLE XII: IMPLEMENTATION

1. **The primary responsibility for the execution of programmes, projects and activities shall rest with the recipient country, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant agreements and general rules made pursuant to these General Regulations. The Executive Director shall, however, be responsible for supervision and assistance in execution, and shall take the necessary measures for this purpose.**

2. **Commodities shall be delivered, under criteria to be established by the Board, to the recipient country as grants without payment.**

3. **Costs of unloading and internal transport, and of any necessary technical and administrative supervision, shall be borne by the government of the recipient country. However, this condition may be waived by the Executive Director in whole or in part, under criteria to be established by the Board, when providing food assistance to meet emergency and protracted relief needs and, in the case of least developed countries, food aid programmes and projects.**

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General Rule XII.1: Monitoring of operations by WFP personnel

As agreements are carried into effect, recipient governments shall give full cooperation to enable authorized personnel of WFP to monitor operations, to ascertain their effects, and to carry out evaluations and other missions to assess the results and impact of the programmes and projects. Any final report that shall be submitted to the Board should be shared with the recipient countries concerned for their comments prior to submission.

General Rule XII.2: Recipient government reporting

The recipient government shall report as may be provided for in the agreement between the Executive Director and the government on the progress of distribution of WFP commodities and implementation of projects and programmes.

General Rule XII.3: Borrowing of commodities

To assure a prompt response to requests for emergency assistance, the Executive Director may, as appropriate, borrow commodities from other programmes or projects assisted by WFP in the country or in neighbouring countries, or from other sources such as cooperating non-governmental programmes. The Executive Director shall ensure that borrowed commodities are promptly replaced.

General Rule XII.4: Responsibility for optimum use of resources

The Executive Director shall be responsible for making the optimum use of available resources in commodities, cash and acceptable services. To this end the Executive Director may use unrestricted cash resources to purchase commodities, to the maximum extent possible from developing countries, and shall report such purchases to the Board.

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4. **In the assessment of prospective economic and social development programmes and projects and in their execution, when approved, adequate consideration shall be given to safeguarding exporters, international trade and producers and safeguarding local food production and commercial markets in recipient countries. The Executive Director shall comply with such general rules as shall be established by the Board for these purposes. Such general rules shall ensure early consultation with countries likely to be affected, drawing on FAO's Principles of Surplus Disposal and shall also ensure that the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems is informed and its views taken into account.**	**General Rule XII.5: Safeguarding commercial markets** *(a)* At an early stage in the preparation of a programme or project which may interfere with or disrupt commercial markets or normal and developing trade, the Executive Director shall consult with the countries likely to be affected; *(b)* The Executive Director shall also inform the Chairman of the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems of such preparation; *(c)* **If questions concerning any proposed programme or project are raised before the Consultative Sub-Committee, its views should be promptly reported to the Executive Director, who shall take them into account before proceeding with the programme or project;** *(d)* **To facilitate the consideration of policies within the field of surplus disposal, the Executive Director shall make available to the Consultative Sub-Committee documents relevant to these subjects prepared by WFP.** **General Rule XII.6: Safeguarding exporters, international trade, and producers in recipient countries** In the assessment of prospective economic and social development programmes and projects, and in their implementation and subsequent evaluation, full consideration shall be given to the prospective and actual effects of the programme or project upon local food production, including possible ways and means of increasing such production, and upon the markets for agricultural products produced in the country.
ARTICLE XIII: CONTRIBUTIONS 1. **All contributions to WFP shall be on a voluntary basis. Contributions may be donated by governments, intergovernmental bodies, other public and appropriate non-governmental, including private, sources.**	**General Rule XIII.1: Contributions** Contributions may be: *(a)* pledged at conferences convened jointly by the Secretary-General and the Director-General and shall aim at such target as may from time to time be set by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the FAO Conference for such pledging periods by the aforementioned bodies; *(b)* announced during periodic resource consultations; *(c)* committed on an ad hoc basis by donor governments and bilateral institutions; *(d)* made in response to appeals;

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	(e) through other fund-raising activities, including in the private sector; and *(f)* made in any other manner as may be determined by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the FAO Conference. **General Rule XIII.2: Specification of contributions** Contributions for the purposes of WFP as set out in Article II of the General Regulations may be made without restriction as to use or for one or more of the following: *(a)* programme categories; *(b)* specific country programmes, projects or activities within programme categories; or *(c)* such other activities as the Board may decide from time to time. **General Rule XIII.3: Availability of International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) resources for emergency food aid** Countries participating in IEFR should indicate to WFP availabilities of primarily food grains or of cash contributions which might be called upon for emergency food aid purposes, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII). Developing countries not in a position to make contributions in cash or in kind to the IEFR should, where possible, indicate their willingness to make interest-free loans of cash or commodities to be used by WFP.
2. Donors may contribute appropriate commodities, cash and acceptable services in accordance with the general rules made pursuant to these General Regulations. Each donor shall provide cash contributions sufficient to cover the full operational and support costs of its contributions. Governments of developing countries may make commodity-only contributions, provided that the full operational and support costs are covered by another donor. In exceptional cases, these costs for the commodity-only contributions from IDA-eligible countries may be met from the WFP Fund.	**General Rule XIII.4: Types of contributions** In accordance with General Regulation XIII.2, the following shall apply to the various types of contributions to WFP: *(a)* Food commodities. Donors contributing food commodities shall provide sufficient cash, acceptable services, or acceptable non-food items to fully cover the operational and support costs related to their commodity contribution. *(b)* Designated cash. Donors contributing designated cash, such as cash in lieu of commodities (CLC), shall provide sufficient cash, acceptable services, or acceptable non-food items to fully cover the operational and support costs related to their cash contribution.

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	(c) Non-Food items. Donors contributing acceptable non-food items not directly associated with other contributions shall provide sufficient cash or acceptable services to fully cover the operational and support costs related to their contribution. *(d)* Acceptable services. Donors contributing acceptable services not directly associated with other contributions shall provide cash or other acceptable resources to fully cover the operational and support costs related to their contribution. *(e)* Untied cash. Donors providing cash contributions which are not designated in any way or designated to the Immediate Response Account (IRA) shall not be required to provide additional cash or services to fully cover the operational and support costs related to their cash contribution. **General Rule XIII.5: Consultations on commodities and services** Appropriate commodities and acceptable services shall be determined from time to time by discussions between recipients and the Executive Director on the basis of such criteria as may approved by the Board and in the light of operational needs taking into account the need to avoid unsustainable changes in consumption patterns in the recipient countries. Their availability shall be determined by discussions between contributors and the Executive Director. **General Rule XIII.6: Valuation of commodity pledges and services** In respect of quantity pledges or where a pledge made in monetary terms is subsequently translated into commodities, in whole or in part, these shall be recorded both at the time when commodities are pledged, as well as the time when commodities are received by WFP at a value based on the world market prices, at the Food Aid Convention (FAC) price or at the donor's invoice price as may be applicable. Contributions of acceptable services shall be valued either at world market prices, or, where the service is of a local character, at the price contracted for by the Executive Director. Contributions in personnel services shall be valued at WFP's standard cost.

Proposed General Regulations	Proposed General Rules
	General Rule XIII.7: Period for availability of pledges Pledged contributions of commodities and services shall be held available for commitment for the purposes of WFP until the end of the pledging period. Should unforeseen circumstances, such as domestic crop failure, arise, a contributor may, in consultation with the Executive Director, defer delivery of any part of the commodities pledged, or substitute other appropriate commodities therefor, provided that the commodities concerned have not yet been committed by WFP to recipient countries. After appropriate notice has been given, cash in convertible currencies of equal value to the portion of the commodity pledge withdrawn may be substituted therefor. The Executive Director shall keep contributors informed of contemplated and final commitments of commodities and services pledged by them. Pledged commodities which have been committed shall be held in the country of the contributor until called for by the Executive Director, and then delivered at the cost of the contributor, at export ports free on board or at the border of the country of the contributor. Any committed commodities remaining undelivered by the end of the period for which they have been pledged shall remain available for delivery for such extended period as may be agreed upon in consultation between the Executive Director and the contributor. Committed services shall be treated in the same manner. **General Rule XIII.8: Substitution of cash for services** In agreement with the Executive Director, cash in convertible currencies may be substituted for pledged services which have not been committed by WFP. **General Rule XIII.9: Currency of cash contributions** Cash contributions to WFP shall be made in convertible currencies. In exceptional circumstances, however, developing countries may, with the agreement of the Executive Director, make cash contributions in non-convertible currencies. **General Rule XIII.10: Time limits for provision of cash-only pledges at pledging conferences** The annual instalment of cash-only pledges shall be paid for each year of the pledging period to which it relates within 60 days after the beginning of the country's fiscal year. Countries which for domestic, legal and budgetary reasons are not in a position to meet this time limit may announce at the Pledging Conference the times at which they intend to make their cash contributions available to WFP.

Proposed General Regulations

3. Commodity pledges may be made either in monetary terms or in terms of fixed physical quantities of specified commodities.

ARTICLE XIV: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. All contributions to WFP mentioned in Article XIII of these General Regulations shall be credited to the World Food Programme Fund (hereinafter referred to as "the WFP Fund"), from which the cost of administration and operation of WFP shall be met. The WFP Fund, and any sub-funds or accounts that may be established, shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of WFP.
2. The Board shall exercise full intergovernmental supervision and scrutiny of all aspects of the WFP Fund.
3. The Executive Director shall have complete responsibility and shall be accountable to the Board for the operation and administration of the WFP Fund.
4. In all matters relating to the financial administration of WFP, the Board shall draw on the advice of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Finance Committee of FAO.
5. The Board shall, after receiving advice from the ACABQ and the FAO Finance Committee, establish Financial Regulations to govern the management of the WFP Fund.
6. The Executive Director will submit the following to the Executive Board for approval:
   (a) the biennial WFP budget, and supplementary WFP budgets whenever appropriate prepared in exceptional circumstances;
   (b) biennial financial statements of WFP, together with the report of the External Auditor;
   (c) other financial reports.

Proposed General Rules

General Rule XIII.11: Time limits for provision of other cash-only contributions

Cash pledges announced during the periodic resource consultations or on an ad hoc basis or in response to appeals shall be paid not later than 60 days after the announcement. Countries which for domestic, legal and budgetary reasons are not in a position to meet this time limit may announce the times at which they intend to make their cash contributions available to WFP.

Proposed General Regulations	Proposed General Rules
These will also be submitted to the FAO Finance Committee and the ACABQ for their review and comments. The reports of these bodies will be submitted to the Board.	
ARTICLE XV: AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL REGULATIONS **1. Amendments to these General Regulations shall be approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the FAO Conference.** **2. The Board may recommend amendments to these General Regulations through the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO.**	**General Rule XV.1: Amendments to the General Rules** Amendments to these General Rules shall be approved by the Board and submitted for information to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO.

APPENDIX A TO THE GENERAL REGULATIONS

UNITED NATIONS/FAO MEMBER STATES LISTINGS FOR ELECTIONS FOR THE WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

States:

List A

States:

List B

States:

Group I

States:

Group II

States:

List C

States:

2. ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

States:

List D

States:

List E

States

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[2] In the event of a change in the membership of the United Nations or the FAO, the appropriate change will be made by the Secretariats of the United Nations and FAO respectively after the necessary consultations with Member States.

APPENDIX B TO THE GENERAL REGULATIONS

The distribution of seats of the Executive Board shall be as follows:[1]

(i) Nine members from the States included in list A, five members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and four by the Council of FAO;

(ii) Seven members from the States included in list B, four members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and three by the Council of FAO;

(iii) Five members from the States included in list C, two members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and three by the Council of FAO;

(iv) Twelve members from the States included in list D, six members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and six by the Council of FAO;

(v) Two members from the States included in list E, one member to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and one by the Council of FAO;

(vi) One additional member alternating between the States included in lists B and C, starting with list C, to be elected by the Council of FAO.

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[1] By its resolution 50/8 of 1 November 1995, the General Assembly recorded the understanding that this distribution of seats created no precedent for the composition of other United Nations bodies of a limited membership and that it should be reviewed within two years after the establishment of the Executive Board with a view to achieving its final outcome in accordance with paragraphs 25 and 30 and other relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162; the review being conducted in parallel by the Assembly and the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, taking into account the relevant inputs of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and the results entering into force on 1 January 2000. In the event of a change in this distribution by the General Assembly and the FAO Conference the necessary changes will be made in this appendix by the WFP Secretariat.

APPENDIX (Delegation of Authority)

The following is the authority delegated to the Executive Director by the Board in accordance with Regulation VI.2 (c):

(a) Development projects

Approval of projects that are in line with an approved Country Programme, as well as the reallocation of resources among programme activities, up to a maximum of 10 percent of their cost estimates, subject to the availability of resources.

Approval of projects for which the food value does not exceed three million United States dollars, excepting the following which shall be referred to the Executive Board:

(i) complex projects or those requiring the coordination of a large number of agencies;

(ii) projects involving innovative approaches, or embracing controversial steps;

(iii) projects for which two or more expansions have already been approved;

(iv) projects that include a large proportion (greater than 50 percent) of open market commodity monetization (not including sales of WFP commodities for the purpose of purchasing food products for direct distribution, a modality regarded as commodity exchange and not considered as monetization by the CFA in its discussion at the Twenty-fourth Session in October 1987).

(b) Emergency operations

All emergency operations whose food value does not exceed three million United States dollars. Above that level, approval will be afforded jointly between the Executive Director and the Director-General.

(c) Protracted relief operations

Approval of protracted relief operations whose food value does not exceed three million United States dollars.

(d) Project budget revisions

(i) Approval of budget revisions for a food value of up to three million United States dollars or 10 percent of the food value prevailing at the time of the increase, whichever is less;

APPENDIX (Delegation of Authority)

(ii) Approval of budget revisions of more than 10 percent of the food value in cases where the total revised food value is less than three million United States dollars.

(iii) The total of such increases for any country in any calendar year may not exceed twice the authority delegated to the Executive Director for project approval.

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Provisional agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
1	Provisional agenda	WFP/EB.2/97/1
	Annotated provisional agenda	WFP/EB.2/97/1/Add.1
3 a)	WFP support to countries in establishing and managing national food assistance programmes	WFP/EB.2/97/3-A
3 b)	Follow-up to ECOSOC resolution 1995/56	WFP/EB.2/97/3-B
3 c)	Note on the WFP/UNHCR Memorandum of Understanding	WFP/EB.2/97/3-C
	WFP/UNHCR Memorandum of Understanding (revision effective as of 31 March 1997)	WFP/EB.2/97/3-C/Add.1
3 d)	Progress report on the implementation of WFP's commitments to women	WFP/EB.2/97/3-D
4	Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations	WFP/EB.2/97/4
	Proposed General Regulations and Rules	WFP/EB.2/97/4/Add.1
	Addendum to the Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations	WFP/EB.2/97/4/Add.2
5	Evaluation reports (covering note)	WFP/EB.2/97/5
	- Thematic evaluation: forestry projects in India	WFP/EB.2/97/5/Add.1
	- Summary evaluation report on ex-post evaluation of the impact and sustainability of selected WFP-assisted projects in China	WFP/EB.2/97/5/Add.2
	- Thematic evaluation of project Brazil 2732 (Exp.1)	WFP/EB.2/97/5/Add.3
	- Summary evaluation report on WFP-assisted emergency relief operations in the Caucasus, including the CLAU operation	WFP/EB.2/97/5/Add.4 + Corr. 1 (E,S,A)
6	Country strategy outlines (covering note)	WFP/EB.2/97/6
	- Senegal: 1997 - 2001	WFP/EB.2/97/6/Add.1
	- Zambia	WFP/EB.2/97/6/Add.2
7 a)	Development projects for Executive Board approval (covering note)	WFP/EB.2/97/7-A
	- Sudan 531 (Exp.3)	WFP/EB.2/97/7-A/Add.1

Provisional agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
	- China 5717	WFP/EB.2/97/7-A/Add.2
7 b)	Budget increases for Executive Board approval (covering note)	WFP/EB.2/97/7-B
	- Ethiopia 4929	WFP/EB.2/97/7-B/Add.1 + Corr.1
	- Morocco 2288 (Exp.4)	WFP/EB.2/97/7-B/Add.2
8	Protracted refugee and displaced person projects for Executive Board approval (covering note)	WFP/EB.2/97/8
	- Kenya 4961 (Exp.3)	WFP/EB.2/97/8/Add.1
	- Sierra Leone 5802	WFP/EB.2/97/8/Add.2 + Corr.1
	- Mali Regional 5804	WFP/EB.2/97/8/Add.3 + Corr.1
9	Progress reports on approved projects (covering note)	WFP/EB.2/97/9
	- Nepal 5324 (Exp.1)	WFP/EB.2/97/9/Add.1
10	Summary of the work of the First Regular Session of the Executive Board, 1997	WFP/EB.1/97/13
12	Decisions and recommendations of the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board, 1997	WFP/EB.2/97/12 (available at meeting)
	Other documents	
	Information for participants	WFP/EB.2/97/INF/1
	Revised list of documents	WFP/EB.2/97/INF/2/Rev.1
	Provisional timetable	WFP/EB.2/97/INF/3
	Offices and telephone numbers	WFP/EB.2/97/INF/4
	Provisional list of participants	WFP/EB.2/97/INF/5 (available at meeting)
	Revised programme of work of the Executive Board for 1997	WFP/EB.2/97/INF/6

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Austria Mr. E. Zimmerl
Cape Verde: Mr. E. Silva
Chad Mr. M. Bamanga Abbas
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Côte d'Ivoire: Ms. M. Ahoua-Mea
Egypt: Mr. A. Aboul Naga
Finland: Ms. P.-L. Kyöstilä
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Permanent Observer of the Holy See: H.E. Mons. Alois Wagner; Mr. L. Bernardi; Mr. G. Tedesco
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Other observers

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United Nations, specialized agencies and its organizations

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UNHCR:	Mr. N. Morris; Mr. A. Ramirez; Mr. J. Upadhyay

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Mondial

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Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

Executive Board
Resumed Second Regular Session

Rome, 26 and 29 May 1997

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RESUMED SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1997

E

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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda

The Executive Board adopted the agenda as proposed (Annex I).

26 May 1997

1997/EB.2R/1

Evaluation reports

The Board took note of the three evaluation reports presented and endorsed the Secretariat's plan to integrate the recommendations and lessons learned into the future work of WFP. The Board confirmed that evaluation reports should be a part of the programme planning process. Evaluations should take place prior to the preparation of a country programme.

a) Natural resource management projects in Pakistan

The Board took note of the sectoral evaluation report on four projects: Pakistan 2451 (Exp.1) - Assistance to the Tarbela and Mangla watersheds; Pakistan 4003 - Rural development works in the North-East Area; Pakistan 4377 - Rural development in Balochistan; and Pakistan 4650 - Environmental rehabilitation in Malakand Division of North-West Frontier Province (WFP/EB.2R/97/2/Add.3), and endorsed the appropriateness of the gradual introduction of a participatory approach with an emphasis on the central role of women. The related need for new methods of data selection and collection was noted, as well as the need for further exploration of synergy effects by collaborating with other United Nations agencies, NGOs and donors.

b) Use of food aid for the conservation and management of soil and water - WFP projects in Latin America

The Board examined the thematic evaluation report on three projects in Latin America: Bolivia 3866 - Development of depressed rural areas; Peru 5162 - Ecological rehabilitation of Andean micro-watersheds; and Nicaragua 4571 - Socio-economic rehabilitation of war-affected population (WFP/EB.2R/97/2/Add.1), and supported the conclusion regarding the soundness of the micro-basin approach. The Board strongly endorsed the recommendation that more effort should be made to improve cooperation with FAO and IFAD, and that the positive role of food aid should be more clearly justified.

c) Summary evaluation report on project Ethiopia 2488 (Exp.3) - Rehabilitation and development of rural lands and infrastructure

The Board considered the report on project Ethiopia 2488 (Exp.3) - Rehabilitation and development of rural lands and infrastructure (WFP/EB.2R/97/2/Add.2). It endorsed the conclusion that the project is making a useful contribution in assisting rural communities to implement land conservation and reclamation activities in the densely populated highland areas of Ethiopia, and that participants, including women, are being empowered through the implementation of the project. The Board urged the Secretariat to ensure that lessons learned from this evaluation, in particular in the area of technical improvements, are incorporated in future activities, to pay due attention to cost-efficiency and the global food situation in the country, to exploit opportunities for the local purchase of commodities, and to seek partnerships with donors and other United Nations agencies.

26 May 1997

1997/EB.2R/2 Country Strategy Outline - Angola

The Board took note of the Country Strategy Outline (CSO) for Angola (WFP/EB.2R/97/3/Add.1), and recommended that WFP:

- continue monitoring closely developments affecting the overall socio-economic situation—especially agricultural production—and adapt WFP interventions accordingly;
- maintain, together with the Government, a high level of coordination, within an integrated approach, with other United Nations agencies, donors and humanitarian agencies; and
- encourage the Government to assume greater responsibilities for the rehabilitation of physical and social infrastructure.

26 May 1997

1997/EB.2R/3 Country Strategy Outlines - El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua

The Board took note of the Country Strategy Outlines submitted for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua (WFP/EB.2R/97/3/Add.2 to 5). It concluded that when formulating country programmes for these countries WFP should take into consideration that the programmes would have to be in line with the expected availability of resources. The Board confirmed that WFP had to focus on the most vulnerable target groups. WFP should develop and apply indicators in order to assess project impact. The Board requested the governments of the four countries to make efforts to guarantee the long-term sustainability of WFP activities by increasing their commitment to the projects and allocating adequate counterpart resources.

26 May 1997

1997/EB.2R/4 **Report on post-delivery losses (October 1995 - September 1996)**

The Board took note of the Report on post-delivery losses for the period October 1995 - September 1996 (WFP/EB.2R/97/4).

26 May 1997

1997/EB.2R/5 **Progress report on WFP's development portfolio**

The Board took note of the Progress report on WFP's development portfolio for 1996 (WFP/EB.2R/97/5).

26 May 1997

1997/EB.2R/6 **Summary of the work of the Second Regular Session of 1997**

The Board endorsed the summary of the work of the Second Regular Session of 1997 (WFP/EB.2/97/Summary).

26 May 1997

AGENDA

1. *Adoption of the agenda*
2. *Evaluation reports*
   - Natural resource management projects in Pakistan

     Pakistan 2451 (Exp.1) - Assistance to the Tarbela and Mangla watersheds;

     Pakistan 4003 - Rural development works in the North-East Area;

     Pakistan 4377 - Rural development in Balochistan; and

     Pakistan 4659 - Environmental rehabilitation in Malakand Division of North-West Frontier Province.
   - Use of food aid for the conservation and management of soil and water - WFP projects in Latin America

     Bolivia 3866 - Development of depressed rural areas;

     Peru 5162 - Ecological rehabilitation of Andean micro-watersheds; and

     Nicaragua 4571 - Socio-economic rehabilitation of war-affected population.
   - Rehabilitation and development of rural lands and infrastructure - Ethiopia 2488 (Exp.3)
3. *Country Strategy Outlines*

   Angola

   El Salvador

   Guatemala

   Honduras

   Nicaragua
4. ***Report on post-delivery losses (October 1995 - September 1996).***
5. ***Progress report on WFP's development portfolio***
6. ***Summary of the work of the Second Regular Session of 1997***
7. ***Other business***
8. ***Verification of the adopted decisions and recommendations***

ANNEX II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
1	Provisional agenda	WFP/EB.2R/97/1
	Annotated provisional agenda	WFP/EB.2R/97/1/Add.1
2	Evaluation reports (covering note)	WFP/EB.2R/97/2
	- Use of food aid for soil and water management and conservation: WFP projects in Latin America	WFP/EB.2R/97/2/Add.1
	- Rehabilitation and development of rural lands and infrastructure - Ethiopia 2488 (Exp.3)	WFP/EB.2R/97/2/Add.2
	- Summary evaluation report on sectoral evaluation for natural resource management in Pakistan	WFP/EB.2R/97/2/Add.3
3	Country strategy outlines (covering note)	WFP/EB.2R/97/3
	- CSO Angola	WFP/EB.2R/97/3/Add.1
	- CSO El Salvador	WFP/EB.2R/97/3/Add.2
	- CSO Guatemala	WFP/EB.2R/97/3/Add.3
	- CSO Honduras	WFP/EB.2R/97/3/Add.4 + Corr.1 (English only) + Corr.2
	- CSO Nicaragua	WFP/EB.2R/97/3/Add.5 + Corr.1 (English only)
4	Report on post-delivery losses for the period 1 October 1995 - 30 September 1996	WFP/EB.2R/97/4
5	Annual progress report on WFP's development portfolio	WFP/EB.2R/97/5
6	Summary of the work of the Second Regular Session of 1997 of the Executive Board	WFP/EB.2/97/Summary
8	Decisions and recommendations of the Resumed Second Regular Session of 1997 of the Executive Board	WFP/EB.2R/97/8

Agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
	Other documents	
	Information for participants	WFP/EB.2R/97/INF/1 WFP/EB.A/97/INF/1
	Revised list of documents	WFP/EB.2R/97/INF/2/Rev.1
	Provisional timetable	WFP/EB.2R/97/INF/3
	Offices and telephone numbers	WFP/EB.2R/97/INF/4
	Provisional list of participants	WFP/EB.2R/97/INF/5
	Country Strategy Outlines and Country Programmes	WFP/EB.2R/97/INF/6
	Update on outstanding balance of commitments for ongoing development activities	WFP/EB.2R/97/INF/7
	Least developed and low-income food-deficit countries	WFP/EB.2R/97/INF/8

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Programme Alimentaire Mondial

World Food Programme

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

Executive Board
Annual Session

Rome, 27 - 29 May 1997

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1997

E

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WFP/EB.A/97/9
5 June 1997
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda

The Executive Board adopted the agenda, after agreeing to postpone the item on the Summary of the work of the Resumed Regular Session of 1997 for discussion at the Third Regular Session of 1997 (Annex I).

27 May 1997

Appointment of the Rapporteur

In keeping with the established methods of work, the Board appointed Mr. Mehdi Ebrahimi (Islamic Republic of Iran) Rapporteur of the Annual Session of 1997.

27 May 1997

1997/EB.A/1

Annual report of the Executive Director

The Board approved the annual report of the Executive Director for 1996 (WFP/EB.A/97/3-A/Add.1) and recommended that future annual reports incorporate the suggestions made in the course of the Board's discussions.

The Board noted the need to have a debate on the issue of increased directing of resources eroding the multilateral nature of the Programme. The Executive Director recalled the decision taken by the CFA at its Fortieth Session to review the implementation of the Resource and Long-term Financing Policies after two years, i.e., at the Annual Session to be held in April - May 1998.

27 May 1997

1997/EB.A/2

Annual report on WFP emergency relief activities in 1996

The Executive Board took note of the Report on WFP emergency relief activities in 1996 (WFP/EB.A/97/3-B).

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/3

Annual report of the Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities in 1996 and on follow-up to the implementation of relevant General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions and decisions

The Board approved the Annual Report to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities in 1996, and on the follow-up to the implementation of relevant General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions and decisions (WFP/EB.A/97/3-C). It recommended that the report be forwarded to ECOSOC and the FAO Council with the following additions:

- reference to the development by WFP of an Internet Web site;
- information on WFP's follow-up to the Copenhagen Social Summit; and
- additional information concerning WFP's efforts to contribute to the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator System.

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/4 **Strategic and financial plan (1998-2001)**

The Board endorsed the general orientation of the Strategic and Financial Plan, 1998-2001 (WFP/EB.A/97/4-A). It approved the preparation of a consolidated budget of approximately 2.6 billion dollars, including appropriate Programme Support and Administrative (PSA) costs, for the period 1998-99, taking into account the issues discussed, as reflected in the Summary of the work of the Executive Board.

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/5 **Budgetary performance report for 1996**

The Board took note of the Budgetary performance report for 1996 (WFP/EB.A/97/4-B) and found it useful. It requested that future reports incorporate the suggestions contained in the comments of the FAO Finance Committee and the ACABQ. The Board recommended the following:

- Future annual reports could be improved by including information on past performance showing expenditure and income trends, using consistent terminology and providing more supportive data that would answer many of the questions raised.
- A full budgetary performance report should be prepared in future for all activities of WFP every two years. This report should include detailed explanations on the PSA funding and expenditures in a format that would permit the Board to assess how the original proposals were implemented and the reasons for deviations from the original estimates, and explanations on shortcomings or slips during the implementation phase of the operations.
- The Board requested the Executive Director to present a paper on the use of interest income at its Third Regular Session of 1997.

The Board reaffirmed the need for WFP to pursue full implementation by all donors of the principle of full recovery of indirect support cost, in accordance with the decision of the Fortieth Session of the CFA on Resource and Long-term Financing Policies.

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/6 Pledging target (1999-2000)

The Board endorsed the Executive Director's proposal for a pledging target for 1999-2000 (WFP/EB.A/97/4-C) relating to development programmes and amounting to one billion United States dollars (2.1 million tons). It decided to recommend such a target to the FAO Council and ECOSOC for endorsement and subsequent presentation to the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Conference for approval.

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/7 Funding and replenishment of the Operational Reserve

The Board approved the summary made in paragraphs 15 to 17 of the document on Funding and replenishment of the Operational Reserve (WFP/EB.A/97/4-D). It recommended the following changes:

a) in paragraph 16 i): delete "(including directed multilateral operations)";

b) in paragraph 17: replace "replenished" by "reimbursed".

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/8 Funding of WFP's after-service medical liabilities

The Board agreed that WFP needs to recognize its after-service medical liabilities in financial statements and should develop a detailed plan for the amortization of these liabilities. The Board indicated that more information will be needed before it can make a final decision. It asked that this information be provided by early September so that it can fully review the options before the Third Regular Session in October 1997.

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/9 Progress report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations, 1992-93 and 1994-95

The Board took note of the Progress report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations, 1992-93 and 1994-95 (WFP/EB.A/97/4-F), and of the fact that the report had been sent to the ACABQ and the FAO Finance Committee for their comments. It commended the Secretariat for the clarity of the new presentation and the progress made.

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/10

Policies on the use of WFP food aid in relief an development activities: Monetization

The Board had before it document WFP/EB.A/97/5-A - "Policies on the use of WFP food aid in relief and development activities: Monetization" and decided that:

a) Country Strategy Outlines should demonstrate the analytical rationale for monetization and its operational modalities in all cases where monetization is likely to feature in a Country Programme.

b) WFP will not undertake projects involving full open-market monetization to fund activities that are not related to direct food assistance, and where the generation of funds is the primary objective.

c) In accordance with the Resource and Long-term Financing Policies, open-market monetization to cover support costs of a directly distributed WFP food intervention should, normally, no longer be necessary. However, where some donors do not have the flexibility to provide sufficient or timely cash resources for this purpose, and in the absence of any alternative financing, some monetization may still need to be undertaken.

d) The open-market sale of food commodities to finance the purchase of locally produced food for direct distribution to beneficiaries should be managed in the same way as open-market sales for other purposes and must be demonstrably cost-effective. The initial commodity sale must not disrupt the normal markets of recipient countries.

e) WFP should continue to use closed-circuit monetization where it is considered the most appropriate modality, in line with past practice.

f) In emergency operations, WFP will consider monetization where it is clearly demonstrable that the monetization process itself has benefits over and above the income transfer to the beneficiaries and where the generation of funds is not the primary objective of commodity sales. Examples include:

   i) situations in which direct distribution is not feasible for reaons of security, risk of theft or prohibitive costs but national traders are able to move food into the target region using established trade routes and where monetization would act as a stabilizing force on markets and may help prevent large-scale displacement of disaster-affected people; and

   ii) where local monetization would promote a "return to normal" when used in a transitional way following the end of an emergency, and/or where relief food aid is in danger of causing dependency and inhibiting normal market mechanisms, but where severe food deficits still exist and commercial imports are limited.

g) WFP would monetize on behalf of donors as a bilateral service as long as the intervention is consistent with WFP's ongoing programmes and its Mission Statement, and does not distort local markets, cause import displacement or price disincentives, nor infringe FAO Principles on Surplus Disposal.

h) In all cases where projects that involve monetization are envisaged:

  i) the cost-effectiveness implications of the monetization process should be made explicit through an *ex ante* analysis comparing the cost of procuring, transporting and selling food commodities with alternative methods of supporting the intervention;

  ii) WFP should have sufficient prior knowledge of market conditions, actors and mechanisms to determine the likely impact of monetization and the most appropriate and cost-effective way of undertaking the process; and

  iii) There should be no market displacement, production disincentive or risk of creating lasting dependency among beneficiaries.

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/11 **Reform and revitalization measures in the WFP**

In approving document WFP/EB.A/97/5-B, "Reform and revitalization measures in the World Food Programme", the Board commended WFP for the extensive reforms and improvements that have been introduced, and urged that such efforts continue.

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/12 **Evaluation work plan for 1997-98**

The Board considered that the proposed Evaluation Work Plan for 1997-98 (WFP/EB.A/97/6) was balanced between emergency and development, and endorsed its general thrust. It felt that increased attention should be paid to assessing WFP's performance in emergencies and the relief-rehabilitation continuum, as well as to measuring the impact and cost-effectiveness of WFP's interventions. It recommended that lessons learned be incorporated in future activities.

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/13 **Composition of WFP international staff - personnel statistics report as at 31 January 1997**

The Board took note with satisfaction of the Personnel statistics report as at 31 January 1997 (WFP/EB.A/97/7), and requested that a brief and comprehensive analysis of the data, outlining major highlights, be provided in future reports.

28 May 1997

1997/EB.A/14 **Progress report on the status of the WFP Headquarter premises**

The Board took note of the verbal report of the Executive Director on the status of WFP's new Headquarters and the contents of the document: "Information Note on WFP Headquarters" (WFP/EB.A/97/INF/7).

The Board expressed appreciation to the Government of Italy for the positive steps taken to resolve the issue.

The Board reaffirmed that the final decision on the choice of the new location rests within the authority of the Executive Director.

28 May 1997

AGENDA

1. ***Adoption of the agenda***
2. ***Appointment of the Rapporteur***
3. ***Annual reports***
    a) Annual report of the Executive Director
    b) Annual report on WFP emergency relief activities in 1996
    c) Annual report of the Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities in 1996, and on follow-up to the implementation of relevant General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions and decisions
4. ***Resource and financial matters***
    a) Strategic and financial plan (1998-2001)
    b) Budgetary performance report for 1996
    c) Pledging target (1999-2000)
    d) Funding and replenishment of the Operational Reserve
    e) Funding of after-service medical liabilities
    f) Progress report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations, 1992-93 and 1994-95
5. ***Policy issues***
    a) Policies on the use of WFP food aid in relief and development activities: Monetization
    b) Reform and revitalization measures in WFP
6. ***Evaluation work plan for 1997-98***
7. ***Administrative and managerial matters***

    Composition of WFP international staff - personnel statistics report as at 31 January 1997
8. ***Other business***
9. ***Verification of adopted decisions and recommendations***

ANNEX II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
1	Provisional agenda	WFP/EB.A/97/1
	Annotated provisional agenda	WFP/EB.A/97/1/Add.1
3 a)	Annual report of the Executive Director: 1996 (covering note)	WFP/EB.A/97/3-A
	- Annual report of the Executive Director: Food security is about people	WFP/EB.A/97/3-A/Add.1+ Corr.1
3 b)	Report by the Executive Director on WFP emergency relief activities in 1996	WFP/EB.A/97/3-B
	- Supplement to the report by the Executive Director on WFP emergency relief activities in 1996	WFP/EB.A/97/3-B/Add.1
	- UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Humanatarian Assistance Appeals - Summary of Requirements and Contributions	WFP/EB.A/97/3-B/Add.2
3 c)	Annual report of the Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities in 1996, and on follow-up to the implementation of relevant General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions and decisions	WFP/EB.A/97/3-C
4 a)	Strategic and financial plan, 1998-2001	WFP/EB.A/97/4-A + Corr.1
4 b)	Budgetary performance report for 1996	WFP/EB.A/97/4-B
4 c)	WFP pledging target for 1999-2000	WFP/EB.A/97/4-C
4 d)	Funding and replenishment of the operational reserve	WFP/EB.A/97/4-D
4 e)	Funding of WFP's after-service medical liabilities	WFP/EB.A/97/4-E
4 f)	Progress report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations, 1992-93 and 1994-95	WFP/EB.A/97/4-F
	Report of the FAO Finance Committee	WFP/EBA/97/4-A,B,D,E,F/Add.1
	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)	WFP/EB.A/97/4-A,B,D,E,F/Add.2
5 a)	Policies on the use of WFP food aid in relief and development activities: Monetization	WFP/EB.A/97/5-A + Corr.1

Agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
5 b)	Reform and revitalization measures in WFP	WFP/EB.A/97/5-B
6	Evaluation work plan for 1997-98	WFP/EB.A/97/6
7	Composition of WFP international professional staff - personnel statistics report as at 31 January 1997	WFP/EB.A/97/7 + Corr.1, + Corr.2
8	Summary of the work of the Resumed Second Regular Session of 1997	WFP/EB.2R/97/Summary
9	Decisions and recommendations of the Annual Session of 1997 of the Executive Board	WFP/EB.A/97/9
	Other documents	
	Information for participants	WFP/EB.2R/97/INF/1 WFP/EB.A/97/INF/1
	Revised Provisional list of documents	WFP/EB.A/97/INF/2/Rev.1
	Revised Provisional timetable	WFP/EB.A/97/INF/3/Rev.1
	Offices and telephone numbers	WFP/EB.A/97/INF/4
	Provisional list of participants	WFP/EB.A/97/INF/5
	Information Note on 1994-95 operational expenditures and indirect support costs	WFP/EB.A/97/INF/6
	Information Note on WFP Headquarters	WFP/EB.A/97/INF/7
	ACC statement on Universal access to basic communication and information services	WFP/EB.A/97/INF/8

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Executive Board
Third Regular Session

Rome, 20 - 23 October 1997

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1997

E

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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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Agenda

The Executive Board proposed adding "WFP assistance to Saharoui refugees" under agenda item 8 b). The agenda was adopted as orally amended (Annex I).

20 October 1997

Appointment of the Rapporteur

In keeping with the established methods of work, the Board appointed Mr. Anthony Beattie (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Rapporteur of the Third Regular Session of 1997.

20 October 1997

1997/EB.3/1 Measures to enhance WFP's programming in the poorest countries

In considering the report by the Secretariat on measures to enhance WFP's programming in the poorest countries (WFP/EB.3/97/3-A), the Board reiterated the importance of achieving the target of allocating at least 50 percent of WFP's development resources to least developed countries (LDCs) and at least 90 percent to LDCs and low-income, food-deficit countries (LIFDCs). It welcomed the analysis of obstacles to increased programme concentration in the poorest countries and supported WFP's proposed measures for building national capacity to implement food assistance programmes effectively. The Board endorsed more extensive use of food funds and support for basic public services and infrastructure subject to appropriate circumstances and careful management.

The Board decided that WFP should selectively apply the following strategies in LDCs, based on appropriate supporting analyses in future Country Programmes and subject to prior approval by the Board:

a) **Invest in LDCs' capacity (governments, NGOs, community groups) to utilize food assistance programmes effectively.** Such expenditure would either be part of WFP's Programme Support and Administrative budget (in the case of counterpart training) or of the direct support costs of projects to provide for non-food inputs and services essential to the success of project activities.

b) **Make more use of food-fund facilities and experimental projects.** To fully exploit the potential for targeted food assistance, WFP Country Directors could propose earmarking for this purpose up to 20 percent of the resources allocated to a Country Programme in an LDC.

c) **Support maintenance and upkeep of basic public services and infrastructure through food assistance in situations where such interventions are crucial for addressing the problems of the poor and vulnerable.** Food assistance will be most effective if it focuses on interventions and sets objectives that are realistic given the conditions of poor countries.

d) **Work closely with other United Nations organizations, bilateral donors and NGOs to strengthen WFP's programming in development and make the best use of food aid in LDCs.**

20 October 1997

1997/EB.3/2 Reaching mothers and children at critical times of their lives

The Board welcomed the report by the Secretariat on reaching mothers and children at critical times of their lives (WFP/EB.3/97/3-B) which, in accordance with WFP's Mission Statement, argued that adequate nutrition is of particular importance for young children, and expectant and nursing mothers. The Board underlined the importance of working in partnership with other United Nations organizations, bilateral donors and NGOs; and the need to identify suitable exit strategies at the outset of WFP's involvement in such activities.

Against this background, the Board endorsed the following policy and operational principles:

a) **Greater focus on tackling early malnutrition.** WFP will increase the share of food assistance allocated to contributing to the improvement of the nutritional status of mothers and children at critical times of their lives.

b) **Advocacy.** Problems of early malnutrition will receive priority attention in the assessment of country needs for food assistance. WFP will define and communicate this focus in the process of the Common Country Assessment, the preparation of the United Nations Country Strategy Note (CSN) and in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and through dialogue with national authorities and the bilateral donor community.

c) **Priority groups.** WFP will limit its assistance to those women and children whose nutritional vulnerability is directly linked to a lack of sufficient and appropriate food intake. Priority will be given to malnourished children and undernourished expectant and nursing mothers. Food delivery performance, child growth and birth weight are the key indicators for monitoring progress. Food assistance with a focus on the prevention of early malnutrition will require careful analysis and verification that supplementary feeding is indeed the best means of achieving this objective.

d) **Food rations**. Commodities included in the food basket will be micronutrient-fortified to the extent possible. WFP will make necessary arrangements with food aid donors, or, where this is not possible, meet the costs of fortification under the category of direct support costs. WFP will strengthen its assistance to the local production of low-cost blended foods.

e) **Cost-effectiveness**. The appropriateness of the food aid intervention will be judged on the basis of its targeting and transfer efficiency. In least developed countries (LDCs), where it is needed most, such assistance may involve higher costs.

f) **Safeguarding the effectiveness of food assistance**. To ensure that its food assistance is fully effective, WFP will take pro-active measures such as: strengthened efforts to integrate WFP's work with that of other United Nations organizations, particularly through the preparation of the CSN and the UNDAF; increased collaboration with NGOs; and, especially in post-emergency situations and in remote areas where food needs are greatest, increased flexibility to meet a minimum of non-food expenditure such as training, nutrition education materials, weighing scales, growth charts, etc. from WFP's own resources under the category of direct support costs.

g) **Duration of assistance**. The sustainability and appropriate duration of WFP food assistance to address early malnutrition must be considered in terms of its long-term benefits. Its duration should be determined in light of need, the recipient countries' own capacities and commitment, and the actual performance of WFP-assisted activities.

h) **Development in relief**. WFP will continue to make optimum use of targeted supplementary feeding programmes through mother and child health care (MCH) structures as a safety net during the phasing out of general relief programmes. WFP will encourage the alignment of financial, technical and administrative resources in relief situations with the longer-term strengthening of MCH services for populations.

On the basis of these principles, WFP should prepare operational guidelines which take account of such key issues as the optimum use of fortified foods, the local production of appropriate blended foods where feasible, measures to encourage breast-feeding, arrangements for measuring the effectiveness of the supplementary feeding component, and feedback mechanisms that ensure learning from WFP's experience.

20 October 1997

1997/EB.3/3 Follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action

In reviewing the report on the follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action (WFP/EB.3/97/3-C), the Board highlighted the importance of United Nations organizations collaborating to give practical meaning to the Plan of Action. It was especially important that the three Rome-based organizations should examine the scope for closer working relationships. The Board agreed that the suggested format for reporting follow-up to the Plan of Action for the period up to the end of 1997 to the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is appropriate. The report, which is to be submitted to the CFS Secretariat before the end of January 1998, will be presented as an information paper to the Board at its First Regular Session of 1998.

20 October 1997

1997/EB.3/4 Biennial budget for 1998-99

After consideration of WFP's 1998-99 biennial budget estimates as submitted by the Executive Director in document WFP/EB.3/97/4-A, the Board underlined the following points:

a) the full-cost recovery principle requires that the full amount of the Programme Support and Administrative (PSA) budget should be funded from Indirect Support Cost recovery, and there should be no or a minimal need for the use of interest income;

b) the indirect support cost rates should be kept as low as possible, since an increase in the rates, especially for the Development programme, could be detrimental to the level of contributions to that programme; and

c) the review of the resource and long-term financing policies, which would be considered at the Board's Annual Session of 1998, would provide the opportunity to revise and fine-tune the policies, including the treatment and containment of direct support costs.

In addition, the Board:

a) **decided that** the indirect support cost rates to be used in the formulation and approval of the 1998-99 budget would remain at the same level as that approved by the Board for 1997;

b) **took note of** the operational initiatives outlined in paragraphs 98 to 150 of the Budget document;

c) **approved** the actions specified below:

    i) that $10 million be advanced from the General Fund to support the Financial Management Improvement Programme (FMIP) and replenished from contributions received;

ii) that the proposal for common premises as contemplated under the United Nations reform process be postponed until such time as concrete plans for United Nations common premises have been developed;

iii) that authority be given to the Executive Director to upgrade a maximum of 10 posts in the biennium, the cost of which would be borne from the approved 1998-99 PSA budget; and

iv) that up to $6.5 million be advanced from the General Fund to meet the fit-up costs of the new headquarters premises, which will be reimbursed by the Host Government insofar as the Headquarters Agreement provides;

d) **endorsed** the programme of work based on the estimate of resources;

e) **encouraged** the Secretariat to work with all host governments to meet the appropriate cash contributions towards operating costs;

f) **approved** a net PSA appropriation in the amount of $205,000,000, which includes mandatory increases in staff costs as calculated under the United Nations Common System, for the purposes indicated below:

	(in US dollars)
Programme support: country offices	99 385 800
Programme support: headquarters	35 551 200
Management and administration of organization	79 526 200
Statutory requirements	2 465 000
Subtotal	216 928 200
Less reductions (of which $4,500,000 will be realized through savings and $7,428,200 through reclassification of costs from indirect to direct support costs of projects)	11 928 200
Net appropriation	205 000 000
To be funded by:	
Government cash contributions towards operating costs	3 000 000
Recovery of indirect support costs	188 000 000
Miscellaneous income	14 000 000
Total	205 000 000

g) **noted that** the level of miscellaneous income to finance the Budget will be reduced to the extent of any reduction from the recosting of the Budget under item i) below;

h) **authorized** the Executive Director to adjust the Budget in accordance with any variation in volume of operations (as outlined in paragraph 238 of the Budget document), when such variations are more than 10 percent from the planned level; and

i) **authorized** the Executive Director to recost the 1998-99 Budget at the US$/Lira exchange rate fixed by the FAO Conference for the 1998-99 biennium.

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/5 Report of the Open-ended Working Group: Revision of WFP's Financial Regulations

The Board considered the Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations and the text of the proposed Financial Regulations (WFP/EB.3/97/4-B). It commended the efforts of the Chairman and the Working Group, and approved the proposed Financial Regulations provisionally, effective 1 January 1998. The Board decided that the Financial Regulations will be reconfirmed once the General Regulations are adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Conference. The text as adopted is attached as Annex II to this document.

21 October 1997

1997/EB.3/6 Proposal on the use of interest income

The Board requested that the Secretariat propose options for the use of the General Fund surplus attributable to interest income for the Board's consideration in the forthcoming review of the Resource and Long-term Financing Policies.

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/7 Appointment of WFP's External Auditor for the term July 1998 to June 2002

The Board decided to re-appoint the Cour des Comptes of France as the External Auditor of WFP for a second term covering the 1998-99 and 2000-01 biennia. The audit fee should not be increased, and if possible should be reduced.

As to the selection and appointment of the WFP External Auditor beyond 2000-01, the Board endorsed the Executive Director's recommendation contained in document WFP/EB.3/97/4-D (recommendation no. 2) and decided that:

a) The Board would adopt the policy that the appointment will be based on competitive selection from proposals of eligible external auditors.

b) The Bureau of the Board would establish procedures and criteria (including work plan, fees, etc.) to be used in the competitive selection and evaluation of proposals, and present these to the Board at its First Regular Session of 1998.

c) The Bureau of the Board would initiate and oversee the competitive selection process and evaluate all proposals received, taking into consideration the comments of the FAO Finance Committee and the ACABQ, as well as present to the Board the results of its evaluation together with its recommendation.

d) The Board would decide by consensus or, failing that, by secret ballot.

The Board also decided that the field of competitors for appointment should be widely drawn and developing countries in particular should be encouraged to bid.

21 October 1997

1997/EB.3/8 Update of indirect cost rates

The Board decided that the Indirect Support Cost rates shall remain at the same level as that approved by the Board for 1997, pending the forthcoming review of the Resource and Long-term Financing Policies.

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/9 Evaluation reports

The Board took note of the reports below and endorsed the Secretariat's plan to integrate in the future work of WFP the recommendations and lessons learned.

a) Relief and post-emergency operations in Angola: a joint WFP/NGO/IFRC evaluation (Angola 5602)

In discussing the report on relief and post-emergency operations in Angola (WFP/EB.3/97/5/Add.5), the Board recommended that cooperation between WFP and NGOs be strengthened further. It stressed that careful selection of NGO implementing partners was nevertheless important.

b) **Interim Study on WFP's new capacities in responding to the Great Lakes crisis**

In discussing the interim study on WFP's new capacities in responding to the Great Lakes crisis (WFP/EB.3/97/5/Add.2), the Board recommended continued cooperation between WFP and all actors involved in this important operation.

c) **Programme for rehabilitation (Cambodia 5483)**

The Board considered the evaluation report on PRO Cambodia 5483 (WFP/EB.3/97/5/Add.3) and noted the efforts made to overcome shortcomings in terms of design, targeting and overall strategy. The Secretariat acknowledged the need for further improvements related to the monitoring of benefits and enhanced participation of beneficiaries.

d) **Rehabilitation and upgrading of sea dikes (Viet Nam 4617)**

The Board noted the mid-term evaluation report on rehabilitation and upgrading of sea dikes in Viet Nam (WFP/EB.3/97/5/Add.1) and the positive results of the project. It emphasized the need to monitor the project's effects on the environment and the comparative advantages of food aid.

e) **Lessons learned from food aid contributions to mother and child health (MCH): how to address critical food needs of women and children**

The Board concluded that the thematic evaluation report on lessons learned from food aid contributions to MCH (WFP/EB.3/97/5/Add.4) provided important inputs for the preparation of the policy paper on WFP assistance to mothers and children at critical times of their lives. The Board noted that lessons identified through this exercise would be reflected in the forthcoming guidelines.

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/10 Country Strategy Outline - Mali

The Board welcomed the CSO for Mali (WFP/EB.3/97/6/Add.2) and endorsed the strategy contained therein. It recommended that the Secretariat proceed with the formulation of a Country Programme.

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/11 Country Strategy Outline - Niger

The Board welcomed the CSO for Niger (WFP/EB.3/97/6/Add.1) and endorsed the strategy contained therein. It recommended that the Secretariat proceed with the formulation of a Country Programme.

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/12 Country Programme - Egypt

The Board approved the Country Programme for Egypt (WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.2), noting that it represented a substantial reduction from previous levels of WFP assistance, and encouraged the Secretariat to pursue with determination its innovations in the areas of targeting and women's participation.

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/13 Country Programme - Ghana

The Board approved the Country Programme for Ghana (WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.4).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/14 Country Programme - Haiti

The Board approved the Country Programme for Haiti (WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.3).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/15 Country Programme - Mauritania

The Board approved the Country Programme for Mauritania (WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.1).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/16 Country Programme - Mozambique

The Board approved the Country Programme for Mozambique (WFP/EB.3/7/Add.7).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/17 Country Programme - Yemen

The Board approved the Country Programme for Yemen (WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.6).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/18 Country Programme - Zambia

The Board approved the Country Programme for Zambia (WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.5).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/19 Development project for Executive Board approval - Gaza/West Bank 5474

The Board approved project Gaza/West Bank 5474 - Support to social safety net schemes (WFP/EB.3/97/8-A/Add.2), which was in some respects an emergency intervention as well as a development project.

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/20 Development project for Executive Board approval - Honduras 5691

The Board approved project Honduras 5691 - Health and community development (WFP/EB.3./97/8-A/Add.1).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/21 Development project for Executive Board approval - Nepal 3718.01

The Board approved project Nepal 3718.01 - Assistance to primary schools (WFP/EB.3/97/8-A/Add.3).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/22 Protracted refugee and displaced person project for Executive Board approval - Liberia Regional 4604.06

The Board approved PRO Liberia Regional 4604.06 - Targeted food assistance for the resettlement and repatriation of internally displaced persons and returning refugees in Liberia and for Liberian refugees in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana (WFP/EB.3/97/8-B/Add.1).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/23 WFP assistance to Saharoui refugees

The Board took note of the explanation given by the Secretariat to the representative of Algeria concerning WFP assistance to vulnerable Saharoui refugees. It requested that the text of this explanation—as read out to the Board by the President—be recorded in the Summary of the work of the session (WFP/EB.3/97/14).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/24 Protracted refugee and displaced person project for Executive Board approval - Nepal 5324.02

The Board approved project Nepal 5324.02 - Food assistance to Bhutanese refugees in Nepal (WFP/EB.3/97/8-B/Add.2).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/25 Budget increases to development projects approved by the Executive Director 1 January - 30 June 1997

The Board took note of the document providing information on budget increases for development projects approved by the Executive Director within her delegated authority between 1 January and 30 June 1997 (WFP/EB.3/97/9-B).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/26 PROs approved by the Executive Director, 1 January - 30 June 1997

The Board took note of the summary on PRO Mauritania 5413.03 approved by the Executive Director between 1 January and 30 June 1997 within her delegated authority (WFP/EB.3/97/9-C/Add.1).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/27 Budget increases to PROs approved by the Executive Director, 1 January - 30 June 1997

The Board took note of the document providing information on budget increases for protracted refugee and displaced person projects (PROs) approved by the Executive Director within her delegated authority between 1 January and 30 June 1997 (WFP/EB.3/97/9-D).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/28 Activities approved by Country Directors under Country Programmes approved by the Executive Board - Bolivia 3866.01

The Board took note of the abstract relating to Activity 1 of the Bolivia Country Programme - Bolivia 3866.01 - Participative integrated rural development in depressed areas (WFP/EB.3/97/9-E/Add.1).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/29 Progress reports

The Board took note of the progress report on project Ecuador 3096.01 - School feeding programme for improvement of basic education in priority areas (WFP/EB.3/97/9-F/Add.1).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/30 Programme of work of the Executive Board for 1998

The Board approved the provisional programme of work for 1998 submitted by the Secretariat (WFP/EB.3/97/10).

22 October 1997

1997/EB.3/31 Summaries of the work of the Resumed Second Regular and Annual Sessions of 1997

The Board endorsed the summaries of the Resumed Second Regular and Annual Sessions of 1997.

22 October 1997

ANNEX I

1. ***Adoption of the agenda***
2. ***Appointment of the Rapporteur***
3. ***Policy issues***
   - a) Measures to enhance WFP's programming in the poorest countries
   - b) Reaching mothers and children at critical times of their lives
   - c) Follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action
4. ***Financial and budgetary matters***
   - a) Biennial budget for 1998-99
   - b) Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations: Proposed Revised Financial Regulations, and comments by the ACABQ and the FAO Finance Committee
   - c) Proposal on use of interest income
   - d) Appointment of WFP's External Auditor for the term July 1998 to June 2002
   - e) Update of indirect cost rates
5. ***Evaluation reports***
   - Relief and post-emergency operations in Angola: a joint WFP/NGOs/IFRC evaluation
   - Interim Study on WFP's new capacities in responding to the Great Lakes crisis
   - Rehabilitation and upgrading of sea dikes
     Viet Nam 4617
   - Programme for rehabilitation
     Cambodia 5483
   - Lessons learned from food aid contributions to MCH: how to address critical food needs of women and children
6. ***Country Strategy Outlines***
   Mali
   Niger
7. ***Country Programmes***
   Egypt
   Ghana
   Haiti
   Mauritania
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   Yemen
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8. ***Projects for Executive Board approval***
   - a) Development projects
     Gaza 5474
     Honduras 5691
     Nepal 3718.01
   - b) Protracted refugee and displaced person projects
     Liberia 4604.06
     Nepal 5324.02
     WFP's policy on assistance to Saharoui refugees

9. ***Reports of the Executive Director***
   - a) Development projects approved by the Executive Director, 1 January - 30 June 1997
   - b) Budget increases to development projects approved by the Executive Director, 1 January - 30 June 1997
   - c) PROs approved by the Executive Director, 1 January - 30 June 1997
   - d) Budget increases to PROs approved by the Executive Director, 1 January - 30 June 1997
   - e) Activities approved by Country Directors under Country Programmes approved by the Executive Board
     Bolivia 3866.01
   - f) Progress reports
     Ecuador 3096.01

10. ***Organizational and procedural matters: Programme of work for 1998***

11. ***Summaries of the work of the Resumed Second Regular and Annual Sessions of 1997***

12. ***Other business***

13. ***Verification of adopted decisions and recommendations***

ANNEX II

Financial Regulations

I: Definitions

Financial Regulation 1.1: For the purposes of these Regulations, and the rules promulgated thereto, the following definitions shall apply:

"ACABQ" shall mean the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

"Account" shall mean a formal record of an asset, liability, revenue or expense for which the effects of transactions are indicated in terms of money or other unit of measurement.

"Allotment" shall mean a financial authorization issued by the Executive Director to an official to incur obligations for specific purposes within approved budgets, within specified limits and during a specified time.

"Appropriation" shall mean the amount approved by the Board for specified purposes in the programme support and administrative budget for a financial period, against which obligations up to the amount approved may be incurred for those purposes.

"Appropriation line" shall mean the largest subdivision of the programme support and administrative budget within which the Executive Director is authorized to make transfers without prior approval of the Board.

"Bilateral contribution" shall mean a contribution directed by the donor to be used to support an activity not initiated by WFP.

"Board" shall mean the Executive Board of WFP and its predecessors.

"Contribution" shall mean a donation of appropriate commodities, non-food items, acceptable services or cash made in accordance with procedures set out in these Regulations. A contribution may be multilateral, directed multilateral or bilateral.

"Country Programme" shall mean a Country Programme approved by the Board in accordance with General Regulation VI.2 (c).

"Directed Multilateral Contribution" shall mean a contribution, other than a response to an appeal made by WFP for a specific emergency operation, which a donor requests WFP to direct to a specific activity or activities initiated by WFP or to a specific Country Programme or Country Programmes.

"Direct support cost" shall mean a cost which can be directly linked with the provision of support to an operation and which would not be incurred should that activity cease.

"Executive Director" shall mean the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, or the official to whom the Executive Director has delegated authority and responsibility for the matter in question.

"*Ex gratia* payment" shall mean a payment made when there is no legal liability, but the moral obligation is such as to make payment desirable.

"Finance Committee" shall mean the Finance Committee of FAO.

"Financial period" shall mean a two-year period starting on 1 January of each even-numbered year.

"Financial Rules" shall mean the rules established under Financial Regulation 2.2.

"Financial Statements" shall mean formal presentation of financial information showing the income and expenditure for a given period and assets and liabilities at the end of that period, including notes, which form an integral part thereof.

"FAO" shall mean the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

"Full-cost recovery" shall mean the recovery of operational costs, direct support costs and indirect support costs in full.

"Fund" shall mean an accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording cash and other financial and non-financial resources, together with related liabilities and residual equities or balances, and changes therein. Funds are segregated for the purpose of conducting specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations.

"General Fund" shall mean the accounting entity established for recording, under separate accounts, indirect support cost recoveries, miscellaneous income, operational reserve and contributions received which are not designated to a specific programme category, project or a bilateral project.

"General Regulations" shall mean the General Regulations of the World Food Programme, as approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Conference of FAO.

"General Rules" shall mean the General Rules of the World Food Programme, as approved by its Executive Board.

"IEFR" shall mean the International Emergency Food Reserve.

"Indirect support cost" shall mean a cost which supports the execution of projects and activities but cannot be directly linked with their implementation.

"IRA" shall mean the Immediate Response Account of the IEFR.

"Multilateral contribution" shall mean a contribution, for which WFP determines the Country Programme or WFP activities in which the contribution will be used and how it will be used, or a contribution made in response to an appeal made by WFP for a specific operation. In such cases, the donor will accept reports submitted to the Board as sufficient to meet the requirements of the donor.

"Obligation" shall mean a written commitment of monies resulting in a liability against an allotment.

"Operational costs" shall mean the costs of commodities, ocean transportation and related costs, and landside transportation, storage and handling (LTSH).

"Operational reserve" shall mean monies maintained as an account within the General Fund to be used to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of resources.

"Programme category" shall mean a classification of WFP activities as established in accordance with the General Rules.

"Programme category fund" shall mean an accounting entity established by the Board for the purposes of accounting for contributions, income and expenditures for each programme category.

"Programme support and administrative budget" shall mean the portion of the WFP Budget that pertains to providing indirect support to WFP's activities.

"Project" shall mean a separately identified undertaking within a programme category.

"Project agreement" shall mean a document, howsoever designated, executed in accordance with the provisions of General Regulation XI.

"Special account" shall mean an account established by the Executive Director for a special contribution, or for monies earmarked for specific activities, the balance of which may be brought forward to the succeeding financial period.

"Trust fund" shall mean an identifiable subdivision of the WFP Fund, established by the Executive Director in order to account for a special contribution, the purpose, scope and reporting procedures of which have been agreed with the donor.

Financial Regulations

"WFP Budget" shall mean the biennial budget approved by the Board indicating estimated resources and expenditures for programmes, projects and activities and shall include a programme support and administrative budget.

"WFP Fund" shall mean the World Food Programme fund established in accordance with General Regulation XIV.1, comprised of the General Fund, the programme category funds, trust funds and special accounts.

II. Applicability

Financial Regulation 2.1: These Financial Regulations, adopted pursuant to General Regulation XIV.5, shall govern the financial management of the WFP Fund. The Board may, in exceptional circumstances, grant exemptions from these Financial Regulations.

Financial Regulation 2.2: The Executive Director shall establish Financial Rules, consistent with the General Regulations and these Financial Regulations, to ensure effective financial administration and the exercise of economy. The Executive Director shall circulate the Financial Rules for information to the Board, the ACABQ and the Finance Committee.

III: Accountability

Financial Regulation 3.1: The Executive Director shall be fully responsible and accountable to the Board for the financial management of the activities of WFP.

IV: Resources

Financial Regulation 4.1: The resources of WFP shall consist of:

a) Contributions made pursuant to Article XIII of the General Regulations;
b) Miscellaneous income, including interest on investments, and
c) Contributions received in trust as set forth in Financial Regulation V.

Financial Regulation 4.2 Contributions to support the purposes of WFP shall be recorded under the following funds and accounts:

a) programme category funds;
b) the General Fund;
c) trust funds; or
d)special accounts.

Financial Regulation 4.3: The Board shall establish a target level for the IRA for each financial period. The target level should be maintained by annual replenishment contributions from donors and, when possible, by repayment of advances made for specific emergencies. Contributions for food and food-related costs will be distinguished clearly from contributions for non-food related costs to enable reporting to the Food Aid Committee of the International Grain Council.

Financial Regulation 4.4: Each donor shall be responsible for all costs of its commodity and non-food contributions up to and including delivery free on board at the export port or, where appropriate, free on rail at a recognized exit point of the country concerned.

Financial Regulation 4.5: Each donor contributing commodities or non-food items shall be responsible for related transportation costs as well as all associated operational and support costs. The donor shall also be responsible for the costs of unloading and internal transport and any necessary technical and administrative supervision, and all associated operational and support costs, where the responsibility of the government of the recipient country for these costs is waived by the Executive Director in accordance with General Regulation XII.3.

Financial Regulations

Financial Regulation 4.6: The Executive Director, under guidelines established by the Board and in consultation with the donor and the recipient country, may approve the sale of commodities for cash if in the Executive Director's opinion such cash will contribute more effectively to the objectives of the Country Programmes, projects or activities in question. The responsibility of managing the generated financial resources will rest with the holder of the title of commodities at the time of sale. The Executive Director shall retain in all circumstances responsibility for monitoring the management of resources so generated through audit requirements or other measures. When the Executive Director determines that it is in the best interest of the project or activity for WFP to manage the generated financial resources belonging to the recipient government, WFP will enter into a trust fund arrangement with the government. The delineation of the respective responsibilities of WFP, the donor, and the recipient government in the management of such trust fund shall be in accordance with the guidelines established by the Board.

Financial Regulation 4.7: Governments of recipient countries are expected to contribute a substantial portion of the costs of WFP country offices, in kind and in cash. The extent of this contribution shall be set out in an agreement between WFP and the government concerned. On the recommendation of the Executive Director, the Board may exempt specific countries from this Regulation.

V: Trust Funds and special accounts

Financial Regulation 5.1: Trust funds and special accounts may be established by the Executive Director for specified purposes consistent with the policies, aims and activities of WFP. The Executive Director shall report all such trust funds or special accounts to the Board.

Financial Regulation 5.2: The purpose and limits of each trust fund and special account shall be clearly defined and contributions thereto shall be on a full cost recovery basis.

VI: Approvals of country programmes and projects

Financial Regulation 6.1: To provide for continuity in the programming and implementation of WFP assistance to country programmes and projects, approvals for the purposes of the proposed utilization of resources and of the entering into commitments in respect of activities shall remain valid for the duration of each Country Programme or Project.

VII: Strategic and Financial Plan

Financial Regulation 7.1: The Executive Director shall forward the Strategic and Financial Plan to the ACABQ and the Finance Committee for their review and shall thereafter submit to the Board their comments and recommendations.

VIII: Country Programmes and Projects

Financial Regulation 8.1: Approval of a Country Programme or project shall constitute authority for the Executive Director to issue allotments, incur obligations and expend resources for the country programme or project, subject to the preparation and signature of the country programme or project agreement.

Financial Regulation 8.2: Except as may be specifically agreed with donors, the financial administration of activities financed by special accounts or trust funds shall be governed by these Regulations.

IX: The WFP Budget

Financial Regulation 9.1: The Executive Director shall propose a WFP budget for each financial period and submit it to the ACABQ and the Finance Committee in accordance with the General Regulations of WFP.

Financial Regulation 9.2: The Executive Director shall submit the proposed WFP Budget, as well as the reports thereon of the ACABQ and Finance Committee, to the Board at its last regular session in the second year of each financial period. The proposed WFP Budget shall be circulated to members of the Board not later than 60 days before the session.

Financial Regulation 9.3: The proposed WFP Budget shall show the estimated resources and expenditures for each programme category and shall show proposed appropriations for programme support and administrative services in such separate main appropriation lines as may be decided by the Board.

Financial Regulation 9.4: The proposed WFP Budget will contain:

a) comparative tables setting out the proposals for the following financial period, the approved WFP Budget for the current financial period and the approved WFP Budget for the current financial period as modified in the light of actual receipts and expenditures.

b) such statistical data, information and explanatory statements, including staffing tables, as may be requested by the Board or considered appropriate by the Executive Director.

Financial Regulation 9.5: The Board shall consider the proposed WFP Budget, and the related reports of the ACABQ and the Finance Committee, and shall approve the WFP Budget prior to the financial period covered by the WFP Budget.

Financial Regulation 9.6: Approval of the WFP Budget by the Board shall constitute:

a) acceptance of the WFP programme of work for the following financial period and an authorization to the Executive Director to proceed with the implementation of that programme of work; and

b) an authorization to the Executive Director to allocate funds, issue allotments, incur obligations and make payments for the purposes for which the appropriation was approved, up to the amount so approved.

Financial Regulation 9.7: The Executive Director may make transfers within each of the main appropriation lines of the approved programme support and administrative budget. The Executive Director may also make transfers between appropriation lines up to limits the Board may specifically set.

Financial Regulation 9.8: The Executive Director may propose supplementary WFP Budgets for a financial period in a form and manner consistent with the WFP Budget.

Financial Regulation 9.9: Appropriations for programme support and administrative services shall remain available for twelve months following the end of the financial period to which they relate, to the extent they are required to discharge any outstanding legal obligations. At the end of that twelve-month period, the remaining balance of any appropriation shall revert to the General Fund. Any unliquidated obligations shall at that time be cancelled or, where the obligations remain a valid charge, transferred to an obligation against current appropriations.

X: The WFP Fund

Financial Regulation 10.1: The WFP Fund shall be subdivided into a General Fund, programme category funds, trust funds, and such other funds as the Board may establish from time to time. The Executive Director shall establish such accounts within the WFP Fund as are necessary to implement these Regulations.

Financial Regulations

Financial Regulation 10.2: All contributions to WFP shall be credited to the relevant programme category fund, trust fund, General Fund or special account and all expenditures shall be charged to the relevant fund.

Financial Regulation 10.3: All contributions will be classified as multilateral, directed multilateral, or bilateral. The Executive Director may accept bilateral contributions only if they are for activities consistent with the objectives and policies of WFP's mission statement and compatible with assistance provided by WFP in the recipient country. The Executive Director shall report all contributions to the Board.

Financial Regulation 10.4: In respect of each bilateral contribution accepted under Regulation 10.3 of these Regulations, the Executive Director shall establish a trust fund.

Financial Regulation 10.5: Within the General Fund, there shall be maintained an operational reserve at a level to be determined from time to time by the Board, on the recommendation of the Executive Director and after having considered the advice of the ACABQ and the Finance Committee. The purpose of the operational reserve shall be to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of resources. The Board shall establish guidelines for the use of the operational reserve.

Financial Regulation 10.6: Drawdowns from the operational reserve shall be restored as soon as possible from the contributions made for the purpose for which the drawdown was made.

Financial Regulation 10.7: The Board may establish other reserves as required.

Financial Regulation 10.8: The resources of the WFP Fund shall be used exclusively for the operational and support expenses of WFP.

Financial Regulation 10.9: All income other than contributions received shall be classified as miscellaneous income, subject to the provisions of Financial Regulation 11.3 below.

XI: Management of Financial Resources

Financial Regulation 11.1: The Executive Director shall designate the bank or banks in which the monies of the WFP Fund will be kept.

Financial Regulation 11.2: Monies not required immediately may be invested by the Executive Director, bearing in mind the need for safety, liquidity and profitability.

Financial Regulation 11.3: Income from investments shall be credited, where applicable, to the related special account, and in all other cases to the General Fund as miscellaneous income. Unless otherwise specified by the contributor, interest accrued on donor funds administered by WFP for bilateral services shall be credited to the IRA.

XII: Internal Control

Financial Regulation 12.1: The Executive Director shall establish internal controls, including internal audit and investigation, to ensure the effective and efficient use of the resources of WFP and the safeguarding of its assets. Such internal controls shall take into account the best prevailing practices of governmental and commercial management and shall, *inter alia*, ensure:

a) that all payments are made on the basis of supporting vouchers or other documents which ensure that the services or goods have been received and that payments have not previously been made;

b) the regularity of the receipt, custody and disposal of all resources of WFP;

c) the conformity of expenditures and obligations with the appropriations, allotments or other authorizations approved, as the case may be, by the Board, or by the Executive Director.

Financial Regulations

Financial Regulation 12.2: An obligation, regardless of the source or purpose of the monies, shall be incurred only after the relevant allotment has been made in writing by or under the authority of the Executive Director.

Financial Regulation 12.3: The Executive Director may make such ex gratia payments as the Executive Director deems necessary in the interest of WFP. The Executive Director shall report all such payments to the Board with the financial statements.

Financial Regulation 12.4: The Executive Director may, after full investigation, authorize the writing-off of losses of cash, commodities and other assets, provided that a statement of all amounts written off shall be submitted to the External Auditor with the financial statements.

Financial Regulation 12.5: Competitive tenders for commodities, transport, equipment, supplies and other requirements shall be invited by means of formal invitations to bid, advertisements or requests for proposals, except where the Executive Director takes a documented decision that a departure from this Financial Regulation is necessary.

XIII: Financial Statements

Financial Regulation 13.1: The Executive Director shall submit to the Board for its approval biennial financial statements in respect of the WFP Fund, including its funds and accounts. These financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with the UN Common Accounting Standards except when the nature of WFP's operation requires different internationally accepted accounting standards. The format of the financial statements shall be such as may be appropriate to clearly show the financial position of WFP and meet the managerial requirements of the Board and of the Executive Director.

Financial Regulation 13.2: The financial statements shall be presented in United States dollars. Accounting records may also be kept in such other currencies as the Executive Director may deem necessary.

Financial Regulation 13.3: The Executive Director shall certify the financial statements, and submit them not later than 31 March following the end of each financial period, to the External Auditor for examination and opinion.

XIV: External Audit

Financial Regulation 14.1: The Board shall appoint an External Auditor to perform the audit of the accounts of WFP. The External Auditor shall be the Auditor-General (or official holding the equivalent title) of a State Member of the United Nations or FAO.

Financial Regulation 14.2: The External Auditor shall be appointed for a four-year period covering two financial periods. He or she may be reappointed for only one further four-year term.

Financial Regulation 14.3: The audit shall be conducted in accordance with Common Auditing Standards of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and in accordance with the additional terms of reference set out in the Annex to these Regulations.

Financial Regulation 14.4: The External Auditor may make observations with respect to the efficiency of the financial procedures, the accounting system, the internal financial controls and, in general, the administration and management of WFP.

Financial Regulation 14.5: The External Auditor shall be completely independent and solely responsible for the conduct of the audit.

Financial Regulation 14.6: The Board may request the External Auditor to perform specific examinations and issue separate reports thereon.

Financial Regulations

Financial Regulation 14.7: The Executive Director shall provide the External Auditor with the facilities he or she may require in the performance of the audit and any specific examination requested by the Board.

Financial Regulation 14.8: The External Auditor shall issue a report on the audit of the financial statements and relevant schedules relating to the accounts of the financial period, which shall include such information as the External Auditor deems necessary with regard to the matters referred to in Financial Regulation 14.4 and in the additional terms of reference.

Financial Regulation 14.9: External audits will be conducted exclusively by the External Auditor appointed by the Board, provided that for the purpose of making a local or special examination or of effecting economies of audit cost, the External Auditor may engage the services of any national Auditor-General (or person exercising an equivalent function) or commercial public auditors of known repute or any other person or firm who, in the opinion of the External Auditor, is technically qualified.

Annex to the Financial Regulations

Additional terms of reference governing External Audit

1. The External Auditor shall perform such audit of the accounts of WFP, including all trust funds and special accounts, as deemed necessary in order to satisfy himself or herself:
   a) that the financial statements are in accordance with the books and records of WFP;
   b) that the financial transactions reflected in the statements have been in accordance with the rules and regulations, the budgetary provisions and other applicable directives;
   c) that the securities and monies on deposit and on hand have been verified by certificate received direct from WFP's depositories or by actual count of WFP;
   d) that the internal controls, including the internal audit, are adequate in the light of the extent of reliance placed thereon; and
   e) that procedures satisfactory to the External Auditor have been applied to the recording of all assets, liabilities, surpluses and deficits.
2. The External Auditor shall be the sole judge as to the acceptance in whole or in part of certifications and representations by the Executive Director and may proceed to such detailed examination and verification as he or she chooses of all financial records including those relating to supplies and equipment.
3. The External Auditor and the External Auditor's staff shall have free access at all convenient times to all books, records and other documentation which are, in the opinion of the External Auditor, necessary for the performance of the audit. Information classified as privileged and which the Executive Director (or ~~his~~ designated senior official) agrees is required by the External Auditor for the purposes of the audit and information classified confidential shall be made available on application. The External Auditor and his staff shall respect the privileged and confidential nature of any information so classified which has been made available and shall not make use of it except in direct connection with the performance of the audit. The External Auditor may draw the attention of the Board to any denial of information classified as privileged which, in his or her opinion, was required for the purpose of the audit.
4. The External Auditor shall have no power to disallow items in the accounts but shall draw to the attention of the Executive Director for appropriate action any transaction concerning which he or she entertains doubt as to legality or propriety. Audit objections to these or any other transactions arising during the examination of the accounts shall be immediately communicated to the Executive Director.
5. The External Auditor shall express and sign an opinion on the financial statements in the following terms: "I have examined the following appended financial statements, numbered ... to ... properly identified, and relevant schedules of the World Food Programme for the financial period ended 31 December .... My examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of the accounting records and other supporting evidence as I considered necessary in the circumstances."
6. The opinion shall state, as appropriate, whether:
   a) the financial statements present fairly the financial position as at the end of the period and the results of its operations for the period then ended;
   b) the financial statements were prepared in accordance with the stated accounting principles;
   c) the accounting principles were applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding financial period; and
   d) transactions were in accordance with the financial regulations and legislative authority.

7. The report of the External Auditor to the Board on the financial operations of the period should mention:
   - a) the type and scope of the examination;
   - b) matters affecting the completeness or accuracy of the accounts, including where appropriate:
     - i) information necessary to the correct interpretation of the accounts;
     - ii) any amounts which ought to have been received, but which have not been brought to account;
     - iii) any amounts for which a legal or contingent obligation exists and which have not been recorded or reflected in the financial statements;
     - iv) expenditures not properly substantiated; and
     - v) whether proper books of accounts have been kept; where in the presentation of statements there are deviations of material nature from the generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis, these should be disclosed.
   - c) other matters which should be brought to the notice of the Board, such as:
     - i) case of fraud or presumptive fraud;
     - ii) wasteful or improper expenditure of WFP's money or other assets (notwithstanding that the accounting for the transaction may be correct);
     - iii) expenditure likely to commit WFP to further outlay on a large scale;
     - iv) any defect in the general system of detailed regulations governing the control of receipts and disbursements or of supplies and equipment;
     - v) expenditure not in accordance with the intention of the Board after making allowance for duly authorized transfers within the budget;
     - vi) expenditure not in conformity with the authority which governs it.
   - d) the accuracy or otherwise of the supplies and equipment records as determined by stocktaking and examination of the records.
   - e) In addition, the reports may contain reference to transactions accounted for in a previous financial period concerning which further information has been obtained or transactions in a later financial period concerning which it seems desirable that the Board should have early knowledge.
8. The External Auditor may make such observations with respect to his findings resulting from audit and such comments on the Executive Director's financial report as he deems appropriate to the Board or to the Executive Director.
9. Whenever the External Auditor's scope of audit is restricted, or whenever he or she is unable to obtain sufficient evidence, the External Auditor shall refer to the matter in his opinion and report, making clear in the report the reasons for his comments, and the effect on the financial position and the financial transactions as recorded.
10. In no case shall the External Auditor include criticism in his or her report without first affording the Executive Director an adequate opportunity to explain the matter under observation.
11. The External Auditor is not required to mention any matter referred to in the foregoing which, in his opinion, is insignificant in all respects.

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Provisional agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
1	Provisional agenda	WFP/EB.3/97/1/Rev.1
	Annotated provisional agenda	WFP/EB.3/97/1/Add.1/Rev.1
3 a)	Measures to enhance WFP's assistance to the poorest countries	WFP/EB.3/97/3-A
3 b)	Reaching mothers and children at critical times of their lives	WFP/EB.3/97/3-B
3 c)	Follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action	WFP/EB.3/97/3-C and Corr.1
4 a)	The biennial WFP budget for the period 1998-99	WFP/EB.3/97/4-A and Corr.1(E)
4 b)	Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations: Proposed Revised Financial Regulations	WFP/EB.3/97/4-B
	- Comments of the FAO Finance Committee	WFP/EB.3/97/4-B/Add.1
	- Comments of the ACABQ	WFP/EB.3/97/4-B/Add.2
4 c)	Proposal on use of interest income	WFP/EB.3/97/4-C and Corr.1(E)
4 d)	Appointment of WFP's External Auditor	WFP/EB.3/97/4-D
	Comments of the FAO Finance Committee	WFP/EB.3/97/4-A/Add.1
		WFP/EB.3/97/4-C/Add.1
		WFP/EB.3/97/4-D/Add.1
	Comments of the ACABQ	WFP.EB.3/97/4-A/Add.2
		WFP/EB.3/97/4-C/Add.2
		WFP/EB.3/97/4-D/Add.2
4 e)	Update of indirect cost rates	WFP/EB.3/97/4-E
	- Cost measurement study	WFP/EB.3/97/4-E/Add.1

Provisional agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
5	Evaluation reports (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/5
	- Mid-term evaluation of project Viet Nam 4617	WFP/EB.3/97/5/Add.1
	- Interim study on WFP's new capacities in responding to the Great Lakes crisis	WFP/EB.3/97/5/Add.2
	- Evaluation of PRO Cambodia 5483	WFP/EB.3/97/5/Add.3
	- Summary report of the thematic evaluation on lessons learned from food aid contributions to MCH: how to address the critical needs of women and children	WFP/EB.3/97/5/Add.4 and Corr.1(F)
	- Evaluation report on project Angola 5602	WFP/EB.3/97/5/Add.5
6	Country strategy outlines (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/6
	- Niger	WFP/EB.3/97/6/Add.1
	- Mali	WFP/EB.3/97/6/Add.2
7	Country programmes (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/7
	- Mauritania	WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.1
	- Egypt	WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.2 and Corr.1
	- Haiti	WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.3 and Corr.1
	- Ghana	WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.4
	- Zambia	WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.5
	- Yemen	WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.6
	- Mozambique	WFP/EB.3/97/7/Add.7
8 a)	Development projects for Executive Board approval (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/8-A
	- Honduras 5691	WFP/EB.3/97/8-A/Add.1
	- Gaza/West Bank 5474	WFP/EB.3/97/8-A/Add.2 and *(E)
	- Nepal 3718.01	WFP/EB.3/97/8-A/Add.3, Corr.1 and Corr.2
8 b)	Protracted refugee and displaced person projects for Executive Board approval (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/8-B
	Liberia Regional 4604.06	WFP/EB.3/97/8-B/Add.1

Provisional agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
	Nepal 5324.02	WFP/EB.3/97/8-B/Add.2, Corr.1 and Corr.2
9 a)	Development projects approved by the Executive Director (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/9-A
9 b)	Budget increases to development projects approved by the Executive Director (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/9-B
9 c)	Protracted refugee and displaced person projects approved by the Executive Director (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/9-C
	- Mauritania 5413.03	WFP/EB.3/97/9-C/Add.1
9 d)	Budget increases to protracted refugee and displaced person projects approved by the Executive Director (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/9-D
9 e)	Activities approved by Country Directors under Country Programmes approved by the Executive Board (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/9-E
	- Bolivia 3866.01	WFP/EB.3/97/9-E/Add.1
9 f)	Progress reports (covering note)	WFP/EB.3/97/9-F
	- Ecuador 3096.01	WFP/EB.3/97/9-F/Add.1 and *(S)
10	Outline of the Executive Board's programme of work for 1998	WFP/EB.3/97/10 and *(E/F/S)
11	Summaries of the work of the Annual Session and of the Resumed Second Regular Session of 1997	WFP/EB.A/97/10 and *(F) WFP/EB.2R/97/9
13	Decisions and recommendations of the Third Regular Session of 1997 of the Executive Board	WFP/EB.3/97/13
	Other documents	
	Information for participants	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/1
	Provisional list of documents	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/2/Rev.1
	Provisional timetable	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/3
	Offices and telephone numbers	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/4
	Progress report on the new WFP Headquarters	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/5

Provisional agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
	Provisional list of participants	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/6
	Proposed review of the resource and long-term financing policies	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/7
	Update on the WFP's involvement in the UN reform process	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/8
	Information note on comments by the ACABQ and FAO Finance Committee on WFP's budget proposals for the 1998-99 biennium	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/9
	Initiatives resulting in cost savings and revenue generation	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/10
	List of planned and prepared Country Strategy Outlines and Country Programmes	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/11 and Corr.1
	Update on outstanding balance of commitments	WFP/EB.3/97/INF/12

Explanatory note

The following conventions have beed used in the preparation of this list:

(A)	Arabic
(E)	English
(F)	French
(S)	Spanish
*	Re-issued for technical reasons

ANNEX IV

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members of the Executive Board

Algeria:	Ms. H. Yahia-Cherif
Angola:	H.E. A. Abreu; Ms. T. Rocha; Mr. K.K. Mateva; Mr. F.G de Nobrega Cristovaõ
Bangladesh:	H.E. M. Zamir; Mr. M. Mejbahuddin
Belgium:	Mr. G. Mombaerts; H.E. J. De Montjoye; Ms. J.Gentile
Brazil:	Ms. M. Gurgel Valente Da Costa
Burundi:	Mr. F. Nyabenda
Cameroon:	H.E. M. Tabong Kima; Mr. T. Ndive Mokake
Canada:	Mr. M.G. Pilote; Mr. J. Devlin
China:	H.E. T. Zhengping; Mr. L. Zhengdong; Mr. Q. Sixi; Mr. Z. Zhongjun; Mr. X. Yong
Cuba:	H.E. J. Nuiry Sánchez
Denmark:	Mr. L.-H. Worsøe
El Salvador:	Ms. M.E. Jiménez
Ethiopia:	Mr. R. Gebrehiwot
France:	H.E. L. Dominici; Mr. J.-L. Rysto
Germany:	H.E. G. Massmann; Mr. K.G. Dilg; Mr. R.-M. Mohs; Mr. C. Retzlaff; Mr. W. Monigatti
Haiti:	Mr. J.-B. P. Verlaine; Mr. J.W. Dorneval
Hungary:	Ms. M. Kovács
India:	Mr. A. Sinha
Indonesia:	Mr. U.S. Mawardana
Iran, Islamic Republic of:	Mr. M. Ebrahimi
Italy:	H.E. L. Fontana-Giusti; Mr. A. Treggiari; Mr. F. Ginocchio; Mr. G. Previti; Mr. P.F. Zazo; Ms. L. Di Bello; Mr. D. Sorrenti

Japan: Mr. T. Ohashi; Mr. H.. Fuchikawa

Jordan: H.E. S. Masarweh; Mr. A. Arabyat

Mauritania: H.E. M.S. Ould Merzoug; H.E. M.O. Moctar Neche; Mr. O.M. Abdallahi; Mr. M.O. Zein; Mr. T.O.M. Ahid

Mexico: H.E. M.M. Palencia; Ms. C. Jaber De Blancarte

Netherlands: Ms. L. Remmelzwaal; H.E. J.B. Pieters; Mr. E.J.N. Brouwers; Ms. R. Weiffenbach-Steeghs

Nigeria: Mr. B. M. Ukpong; Mr. P.C. Okoh

Norway: Ms. T. Kongsvik; Mr. A. Danevad; Mr. S. Utne

Pakistan: H.E. A. Ayub

Paraguay: H.E. O. Cabello Sarubbi; Mr. R.R. Inchausti Valdez

Senegal: H.E. M. Balla Sy; Mr. A. Diouf

Slovakia: Mr. L. Micek

Switzerland: Mr. H.-F. Morand; Mr. T. Erni; Mr. I.N. Marincek

Tunisia: Mr. M. Lamti

United Kingdom: Mr. G.A. Beattie; Mr. R. Fox; Ms. S. Dunn

United States of America: Mr. D. Sheldon; Ms. L. Tracy; Ms. V.K. Delawie; Ms. L.G. Conner; Mr. E.M. Southwick

Observer States

Argentina: Mr. A. Fernandez

Australia: Ms. C. Walker

Austria: Mr. E. Zimmerl

Cape Verde: Mr. E. Silva

Colombia: Mr. B. Gutiérrez Zuluaga Botero

Côte d'Ivoire: H.E. E.K. Nouama; Mr. M.S. Sia Bi

Dominica: H.E. H.A. Benjamin

Egypt: Mr. F. Abu Hadab; Mr. M. Khalifa

Finland: Ms. S. Antila; Ms. P.-L. Kyöstilä

Ghana:	Mr. M.I. Seidu; Mr. W. Adote
Greece:	Mr. D.A. Kyvetos
Guatemala:	Ms. R. Claverie de Sciolli
Holy See:	H.E. Mons. Alois Wagner; Mr. L. Bernardi; Mr. G. Tedesco; Mr. V. Buonomo
Honduras:	Mr. O. Padilla; Mr. M. Borjas
Kazakhstan:	Mr. B. Sadykov
Kenya:	H.E. B.F. Jalang'o; Mr. K.J. Boinnet
Lesotho:	Ms. M. Ranooe
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya:	Mr. M.M. Seghayer
Luxembourg:	Mr. D. Feypel
Madagascar:	Mr. Monja
Mauritius:	Mr. D. Cangy
Morocco:	H.E. A. Afailal; Mr. F.E. Essaaidi
Panama:	H.E. I. Bernal Maure; Mr. H. Maltez
Republic of Korea:	Mr. J. Kwon
Romania:	Mr. G. Apostoiu
Spain:	Mr. J. Piernavieja Niembro
Sudan:	Mr. M.S.M. Ali Harbi
Sweden:	Ms. D. Alopaeus-Stahl
Syrian Arab Republic:	Mr. K. Moukdad; Mr. M. Al Jammas
Turkey:	Mr. O. Gücük
Viet Nam:	Ms. P.T. Cuc
Zambia:	Mr. E. Kakuwa
Zimbabwe:	Mr. B. Mugobogobo

Other observers

Associate member of FAO

Commission of the European Communities:	H.E. G.P. Papa; Mr. D. Taylor; Mr. G. Guarneri

Other organizations

Palestine:	Ms. I. Al Wazir; Ms. M. Ghannam

United Nations, specialized agencies and its organizations

UN:	Mr. F. Downes-Thomas; Ms. K. Miranda-Saleme
FAO:	Ms. B. Huddleston; Mr. P. Kastanias; Mr. G. Landart; Mr. M. Kato
ILO:	Mr. W. Schiefelbusch
UNESCO:	Ms. U. Meir
WHO:	Ms. M. Mokbel Genequand
IFAD:	Ms. S. Haralambous
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